

# Death to the Klan!

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The Klan and the cops on the steps of Meriden City Hall.

## The Yankee Klan THE KLAN IN CONNECTICUT

Welcome to Ku Klux Klan Connecticut, where the Klan and the government work together without openly seeming to; where the Klan enjoys the full cooperation of the police, the courts and the press, and has been able to build a base in an area which a few years ago would have been thought inhospitable to an overtly white supremacist, fascist organization.

The Ku Klux Klan is a reality in New England today; so much so that the New Britain, Connecticut police chief was recently invited to Greensboro, North Carolina, to lecture *them* on how to control anti-Klan demonstrations (or, as the cops say "confrontations between the Klan and communists").

Cross burnings, Klan rallies and leaflettings are almost as "normal" in Connecticut as in Alabama. Since their 1981 Meriden rally (on the steps of the City Hall, it should be noted) where they were routed by well-aimed rocks and bottles from local youth, the Klan has escalated a drive to win acceptability.

In addition to base-building, the Klan is trying to divide and terrorize Black and Hispanic communities that are their traditional and most effective enemies; isolate revolutionary forces among white people who oppose them; neutralize liberals who help out by taking the position that "if you ignore the Klan they will go away" and effectively use the state's legal and military apparatus to protect themselves where ever they appear.

These are the conditions that faced anti-racist people from Connecticut, Boston, and New York who came out to oppose the KKK in four Connecticut cities on April 28 and 29 as they began their fifth consecutive year of public organizing in the state.

Led by "Imperial Wizard" Bill Wilkinson, the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan rallied in West Haven, Wallingford, New Britain and Groton. The Klan rallies were held in public stadiums or school ball fields. They were protected by SWAT teams, local and state police, rooftop sharpshooters and FBI agents. Demonstrators throughout the weekend numbered from 60 to 150. Klan supporters ranged

from 15 to 25.

The Klan began their current spring "White Christian Solidarity" rallies four years ago to support the police murder of a Black man, Keith Rakestraw, in Meriden, Ct. Since then they have organized in factories, workplaces, and schools across the state. They are rumored to have three military training camps in Connecticut.

### Klan Apple Pie

Despite attempts by anti-racist people to force official denial of permits and police protection, city officials have consistently supported the Klan's "right" to organize. At the same time, city officials and police have spearheaded major media campaigns aimed at keeping anti-Klan protests down. "Ignore the Klan," they say. Of course, they don't ignore the Klan. A petition signed by more than 800 West Haven High students, opposing the Klan rally that was scheduled for their high school was ignored—but city officials had tall grass burned off nearby fields in an apparent attempt to prevent "commandos" from creeping up on racists.

The Klan rallies themselves were media events, directed not only at pro-Klan racists, but also at curious, skeptical and even anti-Klan people.

Downplayed are the night-time rallies, burning crosses, lynch-ropes and confederate flags that symbolize white supremacist terror. In their place are the national anthem, electoral politics and Klanwomen holding Klanbabies. These rallies project a super-clean image. The KKK sports whiter-than-white robes, carries the Amerikkkan flag and plays the Battle Hymn of the Republic over a gigantic loudspeaker.

These police-protected media shows created an atmosphere where even an anti-racist person could come away thinking, "Well, they're racist, but they don't present any real danger."

Bill Wilkinson was the keynote speaker at all four rallies. Complaining about Jesse Jackson, he said that Black people have "more than equal rights." He called for a "three-tiered educational system"—one all Black, one integrated and one all white. "The Klan is not a hate group, it's a love

group," he said. "We love our white people!" Wilkinson endorses Ronald Reagan, applauded imperialist aggression in Central America and promoted nuclear weapons to "fight communism" and "terrorism."

Wilkinson also talked about the Black Liberation Army, who along with the Deacons for Defense, the Black Panther Party and others have taken up arms to protect Black communities from racist terror.

### West Haven and Wallingford

In addition to providing lines of riot-ready troopers surrounding the Klan, the police tried to intimidate protestors by posting large photos of anti-Klan activists, complete with names supplied by the FBI, at the entrances to the stadiums. Essentially a hit-list, courtesy of your local police.

Nevertheless, close to 100 anti-Klan demonstrators showed up in West Haven, a New Haven suburb, to protest the first rally of the Spring blitz.

In nearby Wallingford, anti-racist people heckled and booed inside the rally, while JBAKC distributed anti-Klan leaflets and *DTTK!* at Wallingford's major shopping center. Wallingford residents said that the KKK had done "anti-crime" patrols on the streets in robes, carrying shotguns.

### New Britain

New Britain, the site of the third Klan rally, is a case study in police/Klan/media cooperation.

The New Britain police actually formed and led a 'liberal' anti-Klan coalition which brought together many church and civic groups, including the YMCA. This coalition led prayer vigils decrying the 'violence of the ultra-right and the ultra-left' and at the same time they aggressively campaigned for anti-racist people to ignore the Klan and worked to isolate and discredit the Black, labor, left and community groups who had united to form the People's Anti-Klan Coalition (PAKC).

Even among moderates the position of ignoring the Klan represents the right wing. The Connecticut Education Association

## The Official Anti-Klan Article of the 1984 Olympics

Racist threatening letters were sent to 20 Asian and African Olympic Committees in July by the Klan, mailed from suburban Maryland and New York. One set of letters said "Welcome to America" across the top and "White Society" down the side, using the same "W." The letters featured five Olympic-type rings with racist scenes pictured inside them: a lynching, an attack dog pursuing a Black man, a policeman kicking a Black man, and a swastika with a skull and crossbones.

The FBI is now "satisfied," according to the *New York Times* that the letters were "actually produced by the KGB and probably mailed by Soviet embassy personnel." The *Times* agrees, since the KKK denies writing the letters and has "no conceivable motive for undermining the Olympics" and the Russians, as we all know, are notorious liars.

If anyone still doubts that the Russians did it, after that masterful argument, there is indisputable proof, according to Attorney General Smith and FBI Director Webster. Of course, they can't reveal what it is. That would only help the Russians do it again.

Last year someone circulated a tiny tape of Reagan and Thatcher gleefully planning World War III on the telephone. The FBI announced that it was a "perfect example" of KGB disinformation, cleverly used to exploit the press. Turned out it was done by an English punk comedy group.

We agree with the Soviets that the U.S. accusations are "delirious myths" cynically used to promote chauvinism and super-patriotism. They are of a piece with the offensive U.S. flag-waving at the Olympics that disgusted the world. And the letters are exactly the kind of vile, racist garbage that is the KKK's specialty.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## National Guard vs. Arizona Strikers

National Guard troops have been called out to "keep the peace" after militant copper miner strikers in Clifton, Arizona drove police to the outskirts of town in street-fighting in which several police were injured. The copper miners, who are mostly Mexican, have been striking for almost a year against Phelps Dodge, Arizona's largest copper producer. The fighting broke out when a scab (strikebreaker) brandishing a pistol drove into a rally called by the union's women's organization and police protected him. The strikers are fighting to defend not only their jobs but also their homes, which are owned by the company. Eviction notices have been served on 400 families Phelps Dodge considers "disruptive elements." In June, a Phelps Dodge train track was sabotaged, causing extensive damage to the company. The strike continues.



Phelps Dodge workers remain steadfast. The strike continues in its 15th month.

## Salvadorean Murdered by Neo-Nazis

he w Before midnight on May 1, neo-Nazi bikers murdered a Salvadorean man and beat his nephew in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, less than 5 miles from the site of last December's Klan and Nazi cross-burning. Juan Lopez and David Vasquez stopped to change a flat tire at a gas station next to the Kopper Kitty, a biker bar for gangs such as the Hell's Angels, Devil's Henchmen, Sundowners, Diablos and Crucifiers.

While fixing their tire, a biker harassed the two men, calling them "f---g Mexicans." Vasquez stood up to the biker as more bikers came out of the Kopper Kitty. Vasquez was grabbed by the throat, dragged off and beaten while his uncle, a Salvadorean refugee, was stabbed in the stomach and died instantly. Vasquez identified three of the murderers to the LAPD, but two were never charged and the third has 20 friends ready to testify that he never left the Kopper Kitty.

## Outlaw USA

"The United States of America should immediately cease and refrain from any action restricting, blocking or endangering access to or from Nicaraguan ports, and in particular, the laying of mines," ruled the World Court in the Netherlands. The decision, the result of the first case ever filed against the U.S. by a Third World nation, was in response to a complaint from the government of Nicaragua about the CIA mining of Nicaraguan harbors. The World Court is the judicial arm of the United Nations. A second part of the ruling ordered the U.S. to respect "the right to sovereignty and to political independence possessed by the Republic of Nicaragua." Since 1979, the U.S. has been hiring counter-revolutionary bandits ("contras") to terrorize Nicaragua's Sandinista revolution. The U.S. has made clear its intention to defy the World Court's orders and continue its illegal war in Central America; this makes all acts of resistance, including armed actions inside U.S. borders, legal under international law.

## Anti-Terrorism Law

A new "anti-terrorism" law sponsored by Pres. Reagan and supported by arch-conservatives such as Senator Denton of Alabama would imprison anyone convicted of "acting in concert with" or "providing training or support services to" any government or group designated by the Secretary of State as terrorist. This law would make revolutionary or even liberal solidarity work in the U.S. officially illegal, since every liberation movement and revolutionary movement in the world is considered terrorist. Thus it would be against the law to express support for the PLO, the IRA, for liberation movements in Southern Africa such as SWAPO or the ANC or PAC, for the governments of Cuba and Nicaragua, for the Black Liberation Army, the Republic of New Afrika, the American Indian Movement, and the Puerto Rican FALN inside the U.S. Well, nobody ever said revolution was "legal."



Israeli anti-war demonstration targets Sharon.

## Sharon: Butcher of Sabra and Shatillah

Anti-zionist demonstrators disrupted two speaking engagements of former Israeli defense minister Ariel Sharon, the butcher of Sabra and Shatillah, as he began a U.S. speaking tour in May. In Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Riverdale, New York, protesters stood and shouted "Zionism Is Racism, Palestine is Arab Land, Long Live PLO!" as Sharon began to speak to the Jewish community and while demonstrators picketed outside. The protesters were thrown out but not arrested. Sharon, who led the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, was forced to resign from the Zionist cabinet after it was proven that he personally organized the massacre of 5,000 Palestinian civilians in the Sabra and Shatillah refugee camps. His speaking tour was, in part, to raise money for a libel suit against *Time* magazine for referring to him as the "Butcher of Sabra and Shatillah."

## More Medals Than Men

The U.S. Army awarded 8,612 medals for the cowardly 1983 invasion of Grenada, denounced by freedom-loving people throughout the world. When asked why such an extraordinary number of medals were awarded—since only 7,000 troops actually set foot on the tiny Caribbean island, the Army replied that it was a "valuable and effective leadership tool to build unit morale and esprit."



"We have a question for you, Kissinger: what about Vietnam? Chile? Angola? That's what some people wanted to know when Henry Kissinger spoke at the University of Texas at Austin on March 22. Hundreds of people demonstrated as Kissinger spoke at the LBJ School for Public Affairs. 53 people were arrested. Support the Kissinger 53 for Non-Intervention Coalition demand to drop all charges by sending letters to County Atty. Margaret Moore, 314 W. 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

## PLO Fighters Murdered

The bodies of two Palestinian commandos murdered after their capture by the Israeli Shin Beth, or secret police, were ordered exhumed in May by a commission investigating their deaths. The two were part of a four person team that hijacked an Israeli bus demanding the release of 500 Palestinian political prisoners. Israeli troops stormed the bus, killing one Israeli woman hostage and two of the commandos. The other two were captured and then killed later under torture. The two men were identified by relatives as cousins from the occupied Gaza Strip, Majdi and Subhi Adu-Jumaa. Israeli censors banned any publication of their pictures. The commando raid was part of a heightening armed resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Freedom Fighter captured by Israeli secret police, whose faces were erased by censors.



The Black community of Waynesboro, Georgia, has been protesting the suspicious death of a Black man on August 17 who was held by police on shoplifting charges. The cops say he died of heat exhaustion; the community suspects he was beaten to death. Above, one of the demonstrators confronts cops and Rev. Julian Bell who were trying to pacify the crowd.

## Moonie Book Company

Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church—better known as the "Moonies," part of an international anti-communist network with ties to the CIA—has opened a new avenue to gain legitimacy and propagate their neo-fascist ideology. In addition to publishing its three daily papers, the church has started Paragon House, a book publishing company in New York City modeled after university presses. The 18-member editorial board boasts scholars from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Oxford.

## Expropriation by Red Brigades

The Red Brigades of Italy expropriated \$21.8 million from a Brink's armored car this spring in the largest known expropriation by a revolutionary underground group. Right on!

## Klan Attack on African Dancers

June 5, 1984. Cars and vans belonging to the U-Zulu Dance Theatre company were struck in a late night attack at their home in Oakland, California. Tires were slashed on vans and cars, and a truck was firebombed. "KKK," "Kefir" (misspelling of Kaffir, a racist South African term) and "N—rs Go Home" were spraypainted on the cars. Since last November the group, which is originally from Azania (South Africa), has received threatening phone calls and death threats. When they complained to the police, who said nothing could be done, the calls stopped for a short while.

The security forces of the South African regime, BOSS, have been known to attack progressive artists and anti-apartheid groups in the Bay Area, and may be forming tighter links with fascist U.S. groups like the Klan.

# A TALE OF TWO CITIES

## on the streets during the democratic convention

As Mario Cuomo, keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, chided President Reagan for seeing America as a "shining city on a hill" and ignoring the nation's poor and homeless, the last of the eighty anti-war demonstrators arrested by San Francisco Tac Squad a day earlier were just getting out of jail.

Cuomo warned that America is, "in fact... a Tale of Two Cities," one rich, the other poor; yet he neglected the *Tale of Two Conventions*. The main event was beamed into millions of homes from inside the Moscone Center, where Democrats discussed their plans for building a coalition of the dispossessed to regain control of the White House. But outside in the streets, away from the media's spotlight, thousands

**One of the eight people arrested at the anti-Family Forum demonstration was charged with lynching! Yes, you read that right. The California statute against lynching goes back over a century, to the days of the birth of the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan would frequently kidnap Black people, often with the connivance of the police who had them in their custody, and murder them. Thus the crime of lynching came to be defined as taking someone out of the cops' clutches. Justice, American style.**

of people angered by both Republican and Democratic support for war and white supremacy came face to face with San Francisco riot police. In this most Democratic of cities, whose Mayor Dianne Feinstein was in the running for the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, the police maintained law and order at the point of a billy club.

For the past several months, as the militance of antiwar demonstrations in San Francisco has grown, the SFPD has begun practicing large scale crowd control techniques. In April, over 1000 people took to the streets to protest a speech by Henry Kissinger. Close to 200 were arrested. As convention week approached, the cops, the media and the Democrats were anxious to show that protests would be contained within polite limits. In response to police threats that any demonstrations which stepped out of line would be met with quick arrest, a militant sector of the antiwar movement was determined to set its own terms for resistance.

**Thursday, July 12.** The week before the convention. Over 1000 people demonstrate at the Holiday Inn to protest Family Forum III, an anti-woman, anti-gay, racist gathering of the Christian right wing. Family Forum III is hosted by Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority and Phyllis Schlafly, notorious for her organizing against abortion, the ERA and affirmative action. 250 police, in full riot gear, including scooter squads and cops on horseback, menace the line of demonstrators for over an hour, brandishing their riot sticks.

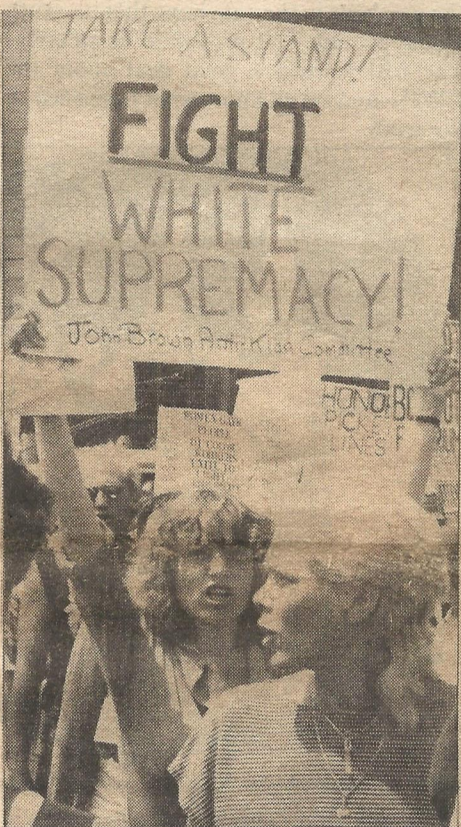


JDL leader Irv Rubin holding effigy of Jesse Jackson.

Finally, as the crowd begins to march across the street into Union Square, the cops carry out the attack they have been practicing for weeks. Two women attempting to leave the demonstration are pinned against parked cars with police motor scooters. When they protest, they are clubbed to the ground; others are trampled by horses. One woman medic, who runs to aid another woman who has been cracked in the head, is herself clubbed from behind by a cop on horseback and requires five stitches in her scalp.

"Seig, heil," the crowd chants. "Moral Majority, cops and Klan, work together hand in hand." "No war, no KKK, no fascist USA." For the next hour, small mobile groups of demonstrators engage in hit and run skirmishes with the police, blocking intersections and emptying garbage cans into the street.

The media that evening dutifully presents the gospel according to Police Chief



Anti-Klan demonstration, 1000 strong.

Cornelius "Con" Murphy, who declares that his men have shown "tremendous restraint." If anything, he claims, they waited too long. "We should have nipped it in the bud." The press conference held by the demonstration's organizers to denounce the police violence is strangely absent from the news.

The tone for the week to come is set. But the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), who had hoped by their show of force to intimidate protestors, will learn soon enough that they have not succeeded.

**Monday, July 16.** The first of three days of protests called Democratic War Chest Tours, which travel about the city's Financial District, pointing out the Bank of America, Southern Pacific, Standard Oil of California and others as the financiers and profiteers of U.S. militarism and explain the connections of these corporations with the Democratic Party. The protestors, mainly in their teens and early twenties, are a loose grouping of peace and anti-nuclear activists and members of the progressive punk community. 84 are arrested for the heinous crime of blocking the sidewalk, a misdemeanor with \$25 bail. But that is not sufficient for the boys in blue. They charge conspiracy to block the sidewalk, a felony—bail \$2500! Says Deputy Police Chief George Eimil, in charge of special repression for the week: "If they stayed in jail until after the convention is over, that'd be great. We want to dissuade them from doing these things." But by the next afternoon, almost all of the 84 are back on the street.

**Tuesday, July 17.** The Democratic Party, champion of the oppressed, has rejected a plank supporting affirmative action and has distinguished itself once again as the



Cops attack demonstration with motorcycles.

"party of peace" by calling for a smaller increase in the defense budget than that proposed by Reagan.

In the street, 1000 people rally a block from the convention site to protest a racist, anti-gay march planned by the Ku Klux Klan.

(A month earlier the Klan had asked for a permit to march at the convention site, but had withdrawn the request when police told them they would have a hard time guaranteeing their safety. The police told them they were free to march without a permit if they stayed on the sidewalk. And that they would get police protection if they needed it.)

Shouts of "democracy, USA/the cops protect the KKK" and "Black Liberation will put a stop to the Klan, the Nazis and killer cops" fill the air as delegates file past on their way to the convention hall. The cops, who have had the Klan under 24-hour surveillance for a week, and know that they are not planning to come—today—maintain a low profile. They try to move the demonstration off the sidewalk and into the "pen"—the police-sanctioned area for demonstrations, surrounded on three sides by chain-link fence. But the people decline the "offer."

Addressing the media, a spokesperson from the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, organizers of the demonstration, states: "People need to think about what it means that we are forced to demonstrate under the threat of police attack and mass arrest, while the Klan has been told that it can rally anywhere with police protection. Anti-racist people who carry out a militant legal picket are being treated as the enemy while the police keep secret any information about the exact time and place of the Klan's rally." But the press isn't interested: the next morning's *San Francisco Chronicle* reports: "Demonstrators Can't Find the Klansmen." No mention of the fact that the Klan's failure to show as planned is a victory for the anti-Klan movement, a result of weeks of organizing that has mobilized hundreds to make sure the Klan doesn't march.

Four hours later, 1500 gather at a rally called by the Livermore Action Group to denounce both parties, nuclear weapons and U.S. militarism. Suddenly, three members of the Jewish Defense League (JDL), including Los Angeles JDL leader Irv Rubin, appear in the crowd waving an effigy of Jesse Jackson. They proceed across the street where they are instantly guarded by a phalanx of SWAT cops as they hang the Jackson effigy and mouth racist slogans. The crowd streams across the street to confront the JDL, tearing up one of their signs, and chanting, "JDL, cops and Klan/work together hand in hand." Police are forced to escort the JDL away to safety.

**Wednesday, July 18.** 750 people join the second Democratic War Chest Tour, pounding on the glass doors at Bechtel Headquarters shouting, "Bechtel, go to hell." Then moving on to the Pacific Stock Exchange, where they completely fill the block-long front stairway. No arrests, though—the demonstration is too large and too much media is around to suit the police.

**Thursday, July 17.** 1000 people, led by Casa El Salvador Farabundo Marti, conduct a funeral procession through downtown San Francisco to protest the murder of over 50,000 in the war in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, across town, the Klan does indeed show up, two days later than expected, just hours before the Rock Against Reagan concert. As they cross the Bay Bridge into the city they are stopped by police and escorted to the Hall of Justice. Police Chief Murphy and Deputy Chief Eimil admit that they fear "a riot" by anti-Klan demonstrators. They tell the Klan that the police already have their hands full and they will not be allowed to march. Today is not a convenient time for the Klan to exercise their "right" to free speech, police officials assert. The cops temporarily confiscate the Klan's confederate flags and robes. But nothing is said about possibilities for the future. No police or city official takes a stand against the Klan marching in San Francisco. Nor are they likely to do so.

87 busts at the Democratic War Chest Tour. Police say demonstrators are rowdy. Spectators on the street have a different interpretation and boo the police as they jab and swing at the demonstrators, corralling them into paddy wagons. One Iowa tourist says, "It's like a scene from the movie *Missing*."

**6:30 p.m.** 1500 people stage an unscheduled march from a Rock Against Reagan concert near the Moscone Center to the Hall of Justice to demand the release of those arrested earlier in the day. Filling the street in front of the building at 850 Bryant, which houses the City Jail, protestors again face off with the Tac Squad, chanting "Let them go" and "SFPD, stop police brutality." The cops move in for another mass arrest, clubs swinging. Again people are trampled by horses, run over by police motor bikes. For the next two hours, police chase down and arrest demonstrators throughout the area, nearly 300 in all. These arrests bring the day's total to nearly 400, the largest mass arrest in San Francisco in 20 years. The national media remains mute. Police Chief Murphy goes on TV to announce that he gives his boys "a strong, solid A" for their week's work.

Inside the Convention Hall, Democrats celebrate the nomination of Geraldine Ferraro, a former prosecuting attorney, as Vice President. "Change is in the air. We're going to make the rules of American life work fairly for all Americans again," she declares, assuring her followers that she and Mondale will "defend America's security and the cause of freedom."

The words ring hollow to thousands who have taken to the street during the last week. Thousands who have seen America at work, defending freedom for the Moral Majority, the JDL and the KKK. Thousands who can see that the price of America's "security" is aggression and war. Thousands who know that it will be determined struggle by progressive forces, not broken promises from the Democratic Party, that will bring about change. The message on the back of one demonstrator's jacket sums it all up: "If voting could change anything—it would be illegal."

# The Lessons of Greensboro

Rarely in recent American history has a case of political murder attracted so much attention as the Greensboro, North Carolina, massacre of November 3, 1979. On that day, millions watched televised replays of Klansmen and Nazis methodically shooting five people to death at an anti-Klan rally called by the Communist Workers Party.

The Klan and an array of other fascist organizations have reemerged as a countrywide force. Embodying the militarism and white supremacy that are the traditional cornerstones of American patriotism, the Klan is *stronger now* than at any point in the last generation. Conservative estimates place its hardcore membership at 15,000 people; its support network in the hundreds of thousands; and its base of sympathy from one to two million.

Today, after two trials—one for murder in 1980, and one for violating the civil rights of the demonstrators which ended on April 15, 1984, the Klan-Nazi alliance is free, certified innocent of all charges. Now, with only the civil trial for financial damages to the families of the dead remaining in the courts, it's time for the movement to discuss the lessons of Greensboro.

## The Courts and the Justice Department

These days most work in relation to Greensboro, and to the anti-Klan struggle in general, is aimed at pressuring the government to "Ban the Klan" and bring racist criminals to justice. The track record of these efforts is heavily weighted in favor of the white supremacist movement. Closely paralleling the defeats of civil rights by the Supreme Court, the Klan has won ruling after ruling protecting its right to flourish. Against overwhelming evidence, the courts and juries have handed them two major victories in Greensboro. Cleared of murder, and recently of federal civil rights violations, the killers are now heroes of the racist movement. The impact of these verdicts goes far beyond whether or not anyone thinks the Klan has a constitutional right to "free speech." Not only have the courts sanctioned armed terror by the rightwing; they have successfully covered up the fact

that the massacre was the result of a Klan-Nazi, police and federal conspiracy.

It is now public knowledge that the racists were led to the rally site by Ed Dawson, a police and former FBI informant. The cops, who left the scene to "take a lunch break" moments before the Klan arrived, remain untouched by the courts. The Federal government's secretive Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, whose agent Bernard Butkovich infiltrated the Klan-Nazi alliance prior to the killings, enjoys immunity. This situation is very dangerous; it mirrors the protection given to the FBI during the Civil Rights movement, when its agents regularly worked with the Klan to attack activists fighting for Black freedom.

The Justice Department deliberately prosecuted the Federal civil rights trial of the Greensboro murderers on grounds so narrow that an acquittal was certain. Instead of the usual statutes, they chose a rarely-used law demanding proof that the attacks were motivated by "racial hatred." Thus, the Klan was able to argue that their violence was motivated by anti-communism, not racism—and therefore, "legal." At the trial, the attorney for one of the Nazis argued: "Roland Wayne Wood is a patriotic citizen just like the Germans were. The largest ethnic minority in the country are Germans. Many of you on the jury have German blood. This court sits on a tract of land owned by a German family. Across the street there is the bust of a German man. The German people are always with us... The Germans gambled everything and lost all in opposition to communism. Aren't they a lot more attractive now than they were forty years ago at the end of the war? These defendants are patriotic citizens, just like the German citizens. That's why they went to Greensboro, to stop the communists."

In this period, when the U.S. is again entering a time of extreme anti-communism, it is no coincidence that this was the basis of the Klan-Nazi defense. The guilty didn't walk to freedom through a legal loophole. They were provided a way out by the government which killed two birds with one stone. The legal point was made that communists aren't protected by civil rights laws, and the *genocidal anti-Black* character of the fascists was obscured.

The Klan is anti-communist because communists fight for justice, equality, and Black liberation. The Klan murdered the CWP leaders because as communists, they were involved in day-to-day work against

white supremacy and in support of Black liberation. Their success at closing down a Klan film showing of "Birth of a Nation" in China Grove, NC, and their advocacy of Black people's right to armed self-defense against racist attacks inspired anti-racist activists across the country. This is why the Klan and the government murdered the CWP members—not because they raised the slogan, "Death to the Klan!"

One of the consequences of relying on the government and courts to stop the Klan is the corresponding decline in militant anti-racist work by white organizations. Even before the full extent of the conspiracy which led to the killings in Greensboro was known, the demonstrators were blamed for bringing it on themselves. Raising the slogan, "Death to the Klan!" was called provocative and mobilizations to confront racists were deemed suicidal and adventurist. There are important issues and debates over tactics involved here, but the net effect of these criticisms and whispering campaigns in the movement was to deny the need to confront the Klan. Forces committed to building a militant movement were isolated, and support for the Black struggle declined.

The CWP itself began to look to the government for justice. CWP members testified before the Grand Jury "investigating" the incidents in the vain hope that the truth would prevail. This proved to be an error. The FBI learned a great deal about the CWP—and we all know what happened to the truth.

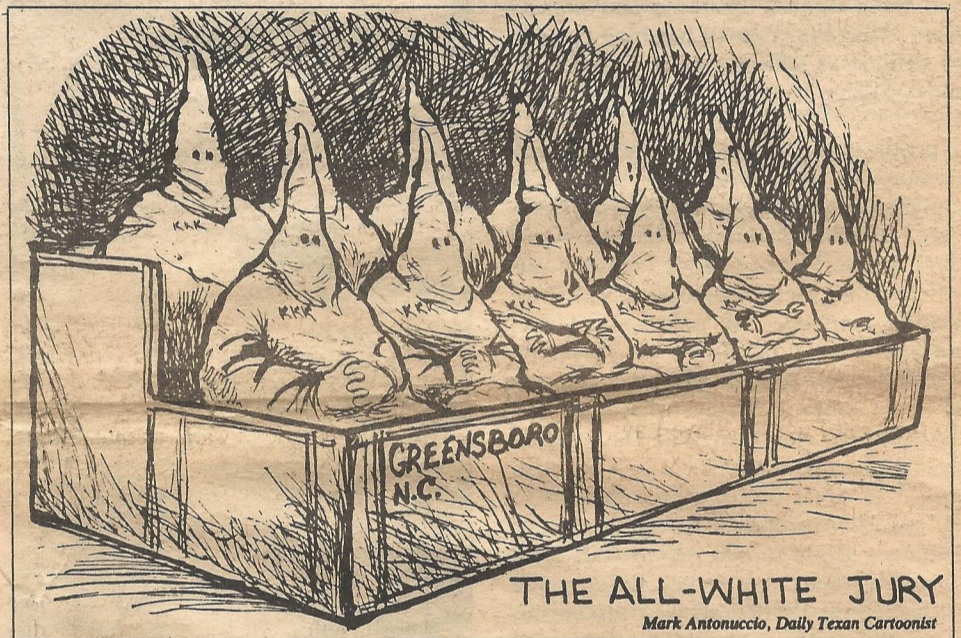
## Building the Anti-Racist Movement

For the Black Nation and all colonized people within the U.S., the situation is growing worse. Legal and social gains won over the past two decades are being wiped out as a prelude to greater exploitation and population control. Reagan has proven adept at selling this package to the majority of white people. *Far from being an incident isolated from this process, Greensboro was very much a factor in it.*

While hundreds and at times thousands of people have come out to demonstrate and fight the Klan, we have been unable to transform this energy into a lasting national movement. The creation of such a movement has been a basic demand made by Black people to anti-racist whites for the hundred years since the Klan first appeared. In 1984, as the Black liberation struggle rebuilds, we are faced with the need to develop an anti-Klan movement among whites which will support the battle for Black liberation, self-defense and self-determination.

Now as the Klan and its allies draw strength from the drive toward war and white supremacy, we need a mass movement that will resist. If Greensboro can teach us nothing else, it is that we must rely on ourselves and not the government or the courts to stop the Klan. And that we must strengthen, rather than turn away from, the militancy of a fighting movement.

That's our opinion. What's yours? Write and we will publish a debate on this issue.



# Klan Indictments a Sham

In May the Justice Department charged ten Alabama Klansmen with conspiracy indictments for attacking a Black demonstration in 1979. In August, five Georgia Klansmen were indicted for breaking into homes and terrorizing interracial couples and white people with Black friends. Since October, 1982, 29 Klansmen have been indicted on Federal charges.

"We are sending a signal to the Klan and other hate groups involved in racial violence that we will hunt them down wherever we can find them," says Daniel Rinzler, the Justice Department's Deputy Assistant Attorney General for civil rights.

The government is on the move against the Klan.

Or is it?

Eight of the Klansmen indicted in this recent flurry of "justice" were the Greens-

boro murderers. And they were deliberately charged under a little-known law that guaranteed they would be acquitted (see story, this issue). The Alabama Klan indictments got front page coverage in the *New York Times*. But when a Federal judge made a decision that virtually guaranteed the Klan's acquittal, the story received little notice.

In a quiet decision in August, U.S. District Judge William Acker banned as evidence the crucial depositions (testimony) taken directly from Klansmen through years of painstaking work by civil rights lawyers of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in Montgomery, Ala. This decision knocked the guts out of the case against the Klan. "I don't know if we sunk their boat, but we bloodied their noses," said Klan attorney John Sudderth.

The Alabama indictments stem from a violent Klan assault on a 1979 march in Decatur, Alabama, to protest the arrest of Tommy Lee Hines, a retarded Black man falsely accused of rape. The case received national attention and the march, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was attacked by Klansmen wielding axe handles and guns. Since the fight didn't all go one way and one Klansman was shot, the FBI decided to investigate. Justice U.S. style was done—a Black demonstrator was indicted and later convicted, no Klansmen were charged even though two marchers had been injured, and the case was closed, at least on the part of the Justice Department.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, known nationally for its lawsuits and investigative work against the Klan and for the publication of *Klan Watch*, took on the case. Morris Dees, an attorney for the SPLC, initially brought a civil damages suit against the Klan. Many Klansmen, worried over the high costs of the suit and lack of legal counsel, began talking to Dees in hopes of getting their own charges dropped. One Klansman turned on his co-conspirators and told about planning sessions for the assault. A Klan couple, Douglas and Carlotta Berryhill of Huntsville, named two leaders responsible for the attack.

At every step of the way attempts have been made to sabotage this case. In an ironic twist, the judge initially assigned to the case, Judge U.W. Clemon, the first Black federal judge in Alabama, had defended Tommy Lee Hines while in private practice. His assignment to the case brought swift protest from Klan attorneys. Clemon later removed himself from the case, saying that he learned in 1979 that his name was on a hit list for assassination by the North Alabama Klan. And last summer, the offices of the SPLC and *Klan Watch* were

firebombed.

Klan members named are: Roger D. Handley, Grand Dragon of the Alabama chapter of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the KKK; William D. Riccio; Ray Steele, Titan of the Alabama Klan; David L. Kelso, Exalted Cyclops in charge of the Decatur klavern; Terry J. Tucker, Exalted Cyclops in charge of the Cullman klavern; William J. Mason, Titan of the Muscle Shoals klavern; Lenwood L. White and Ricky L. Creekmore, members of the Muscle Shoals klavern; Derane O. Godfrey of the Wylam klavern. The 10th Klansman, Jack R. Mize, Titan of the Alabama Klan, pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy.

The five Georgia Klan indictments are for breaking into homes and terrorizing people. In February, the Klan broke into the home of an interracial couple in Tallapoosa, Ga., and beat the husband, who is Black. Even though he had a fractured skull he managed to stab one of his attackers and drive them off. Klansmen were also charged with breaking into a white family's home in Waco, Ga., and beating a woman and her two teenage children because they had Black friends. The Klansmen are: Mailon Paul Wood, Buchanan, Ga.; Kenneth E. Davis, Tallapoosa, Ga.; Winford Wood, Mableton, Ga.; James K. Adams, Villa Rica, Ga.; and William L. Deering, Bremen, Ga.

The Alabama Klan trials are due to start in August, but without the depositions the KKK members will probably not be convicted. This is the reality behind the Justice Department's fine words. Like the Greensboro sham and the Michael Stewart police indictments in New York, these cases are an example of how the legal system is used to give the appearance of justice while it actually protects and sanctions racist violence.

# John Brown & the War in Kansas

One dark night in 1856 in Kansas Territory, in a remote area known as the Swamp of the Swan, five men appeared at the door of the leader of the pro-slavery "Border Ruffians" that were terrorizing the anti-slavery settlers. They beat on the door and awakened the man, in this case a federal judge. While his wife and children watched in horror they led him into the night and killed him with swords. Four other pro-slavery ringleaders were killed the same way that night in what radical Black historian W.E.B. DuBois called "a bold act of terror" that laid to rest forever the notion that only the slaveowners would fight, and Kansas must fall to their will.

John Brown, who led this midnight raid, is one of the most controversial figures in U.S. history. Born in 1800, he committed his life to destroying slavery. Brown believed that no one would be free until Black people were free, and wanted to see a society organized on a "less selfish basis." Because he preferred action to words and fought

*Brown believed that no one would be free until Black people were free and wanted to see a society organized on a "less selfish basis..."*

against the slavocracy as well as U.S. federal troops, he was—and in some circles, still is—considered a fanatic. Yet, among Black people and Abolitionist whites, Brown was honored as a great warrior and anti-slavery hero.

Much of Brown's early work against slavery was with Black people. In 1851, he helped organize an armed self-defense group in Springfield, Massachusetts, in response to the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law. This law, which said that any alleged runaway slave could be seized and re-enslaved without trial or defense, extended the power of the slave owners and endangered all Black people. Brown called his group the League of Gileadites and wrote their principles:

"Hold on to your weapons, and never be persuaded to leave them, part with them, or have them far from you. Stand by one another and by your friends, while a drop of blood remains, and be hanged if you must but tell no tales out of school. Make no confession. Union is strength."

In the 1850s there were two vital questions facing all people in the U.S.: the political/economic conflict between the southern slavocracy and northern industrialists, and the future of 8 million enslaved Africans. The Southern planters were trying to expand the slave system into the newly conquered territories—Texas and New Mexico, stolen from Mexico, and Kansas and Arkansas, stolen from Native Americans. Northern capitalists and free (white) labor were against this, not primarily because they believed in freedom for Black people, but because they wanted to develop the land differently for the growth of industrial capitalism.

In 1854, Congress passed the infamous Kansas-Nebraska Act; this strengthened the pro-slavery forces by revoking the Missouri Compromise of 1824 which had made Kansas a "free" state. The Act included a plan for "white popular sovereignty"—which meant that the white people living in the territory would vote to decide its political and economic future. This wasn't democracy; it was a set-up for war! Moving to Kansas became a partisan political act.

In 1854, five of Brown's sons moved their families to Kansas to help claim the land for the anti-slavery settlers. At first they, like others, thought this could be accomplished through voting and negotiations.

The free-state settlers, as they were known, were largely unprepared for the fight ahead of them. When elections were held in March, 1854, thousands of pro-slavery residents of Missouri poured into Kansas and took control of the polls. 831 legal voters cast ballots, but a total of 6,320 votes were counted! All the members of the legislature were pro-slavery, except two. When the

free-state settlers rejected the outcome of the bogus election, armed pro-slavery mobs came in to "enforce order." Despite the readiness of the Missourians to use violence



John Brown in Kansas

and ignore legality, the majority of anti-slavery settlers hesitated to go beyond peaceful appeals to Congress.

John Brown, Jr., wrote to his father asking him to raise money for arms so that the settlers could defend themselves against the increasing violence of the Missouri Border Ruffians—a southern pro-slavery mercenary army, 3000 strong, that raided across the border from Missouri to burn, pillage and terrorize anti-slavery settlements in Kansas. Brown's sons hoped he could win the support of the Abolitionist movement in the North.

In 1855, Brown went to the Abolitionists' Syracuse Convention to make a plea for money and arms. He told what his sons and other anti-slavery farmers were facing in Kansas. Writing home, Brown said of the convention,

"I have met with a warm reception from all, so far as I know, and except by a few sincere, honest peace friends, a most hearty approval of my intention of arming my sons and other friends in Kansas."

Brown then decided to "strike a blow for freedom" and take the supplies to Kansas himself, disguised as a surveyor. This disguise enabled him to walk unnoticed through pro-slavery bands and overhear their conversations.

The free-state movement that Brown found in Kansas reflected the same struggles and conflicts as the entire anti-slavery movement. There were those, like himself, who hated slavery and believed in justice for all and respected the humanity of Black people. There were those who saw slavery

all the Americans this side of eternity. Then we will want all the learning and talents among ourselves and perhaps more, to govern ourselves."

In 1843, another Black leader, Reverend Henry Highland Garnet, echoed Walker's call for rebellion:

"Brethren, arise, arise. Strike for your lives and liberties. Now is the day and hour. Let every slave throughout the land do this, and the days of slavery are numbered. You cannot be more oppressed than you have been—you cannot suffer greater cruelties than you have already. Rather die freemen than live to be slaves. Remember that you are FOUR Million."

Brown was influenced by these and other Black leaders who argued that freedom for Black people demanded the complete destruction of the slave system. Further, Brown was committed to setting an example and creating an alternative for white people who did not want to be part of the slave system.

Brown came to Kansas with the view that slavery itself was a state of war, and that slaveholders would never give up their slaves "until they felt a big stick about their heads."

On many issues Brown found himself in disagreement with the other Kansas free-state settlers, and sometimes horrified by their racism. Yet because Brown was a serious political and military leader, they united in the goal of making Kansas a free state. Brown commanded defense patrols and was a respected member of the community.

In December 1855, when a treaty was made between the government representatives of both sides, Brown publicly denounced it as a compromise with slavery. Though he initially won many supporters to this view, they were pacified by the politicians who made grand assurances that nothing had been conceded.

However, when Brown saw that govern-

*Brown came to Kansas with a view that slaveholders would never give up their slaves "until they felt a big stick about their heads..."*

ment troops were being put under the command of the slave supporters, and armed bands from the South were camped directly outside his own settlement, he began to move. Donning his old surveyor's disguise, he coolly walked into their camp and overheard their plans to "whip, drive out or kill" all the Abolitionists. They named Brown and others as their targets. Brown warned his allies and they finally

in whose disreputable dive the U.S. court was held. His brother, a giant of six feet four, was a thief and a bully whose pastime was insulting free state women. The third was the postmaster, who managed to avoid direct complicity in the crime, but shared the spoils. Next came the probate judge who harried the free state men with warrants of all sorts and lastly, three miserable drunken tools, formerly slavechasers, who had come to Kansas with their bloodhounds and were ready for any kind of evil."

Brown's band left late in the night. They visited each man at his home and knocking on the door, roused him from bed. Five pro-slavery terrorists were brought to the woods, shot and stabbed with broadswords that night.

The Pottawatomie murders, as they were called, ended the uneasy peace and influenced the entire country. No longer was there even discussion of winning a vote; the question of slavery was going to be settled on the battlefield.

Some free state people condemned the executions and loudly disassociated themselves from them. Others switched sides. Others took up arms and joined John Brown. Kansas was plunged into Civil War. The war spread, creating clear terms for white people to participate in the struggle against slavery. In Missouri, the homeland of the slaveowners, the slaves staged an insurrection armed with scythes and other farm tools.

Though Brown never claimed the Pottawatomie slayings, he became a hunted fugitive. He took 35 followers deep into the woods to train for war. As the pro-slavery forces mobilized, the free-state towns began to ask Brown's guerrillas to defend them. He refused to do this without their own active participation in fighting slavery. "I am not willing to sacrifice my men without having some hope of accomplishing something."

Brown became a legend as he appeared



Civil War broke out in Kansas

as a competitive threat to free (wage) labor, but also were prejudiced against Black people. There were those who believed that they could appeal to the Southern slaveowners to change their ways, or thought that Congress would intervene if only petitioned urgently enough.

These were precisely the issues that Black people had been debating for 200 years. In 1829, David Walker's *Appeal* attacked the economic system of slavery as the basis of white supremacy. Walker called for resistance and self-determination for Black people. His fiery writings were smuggled into the South, causing slaveowners to panic. "Our sufferings will come to an end in spite of

began to question their passive resistance. But it was too late for this battle. On May 21, the Border Ruffians burned the town of Lawrence to the ground. There was virtually no resistance or defense because the false hopes and pacifism of the settlers had left them unprepared. Brown knew that the time had come for decisive action, or the free state forces would be wiped out and their movement destroyed.

Gathering a small army, including four of his sons, he made a plan to bring the war home to the slaveowners. In the words of W.E.B. DuBois:

"The men condemned were among the worst of their kind. One was a liquor dealer

here and there, striking, then swiftly retreating. By August, 1856, the free state forces were clearly winning. The slave-staters gathered their forces for a massive attack on the town of Osawatimie in an effort to turn the tide.

Though newspaper reports of the Battle of Osawatimie on August 30, put the numbers at 250 slavers to 200 Abolitionists, the truth was that Brown, leading no more than 30 fighters, was able to fight off 400 enemy troops and kill or wound 70 of them. Five free state men were lost, including Frederick Brown, and John Brown was injured, but all agreed it had been a decisive battle. A rumor was spread that Brown had been killed, but when he emerged very much alive, he became known as Osawatimie Brown.

In September, John Brown left Kansas to begin work on a new idea he was developing. He had been talking for years about attacking the Southern slavocracy more directly. He began to meet with some of the most prominent Abolitionists of the day: Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Samuel Gridley Howe, Theodore Parker, Franklin B. Sanborn, Gerrit Smith and George L. Stearns, who became known as the Secret Six for their clandestine financial support of Brown. He traveled extensively to speak to Abolitionist groups, Black and white, about his plan to strike slavery a death blow.

His plan was to seize an arsenal and arm the slaves throughout the mountains of the South. He hoped a successful slave insurrection would destroy the slave system and lead to the establishment of an independent Black state. He even had the target picked out—a small town in Virginia where the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers cut through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

It was called Harper's Ferry.

*In the next issue:*

*Taking the War to the South*

## Grand Jury Protest Taken to UN

On July 2, a U.S. federal court met to duly try and convict the tenth person for the "crime" of refusing to collaborate with the continuing FBI investigation (in the guise of a Grand Jury) of the revolutionary Puerto Rican independence movement. The judge, the jury, all the elements of imperialist law and colonial order were there. Only the defendant was missing.

Instead of attending her own show trial, in which she was guaranteed to be convicted, Pamela Fadem went first to the United Nations. Here she was on international territory, and the two U.S. marshals sent to arrest her were forced to wait outside while she presented a letter to the Human Rights Commission and met with an official from that body. In this letter she appealed to U.N. resolution #3103 (Dec. 1973) which states: "The continuation of colonialism in all its forms...is a crime and colonial peoples have the inherent right to struggle by all necessary means." She cited other U.N. resolutions that have condemned not only the U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico but the Grand Jury attacks on the independence movement as well.

Her purpose was to dramatize the fact that the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence is an international matter, and not an "internal affair" of the colonizer, the U.S. It was to emphasize that it is the U.S. that is the criminal, not the Puerto Rican independence movement or its supporters.

On leaving the U.N. Fadem was arrested and taken to Brooklyn Federal Court where she was tried and swiftly convicted for criminal contempt for defying a court order to talk to the Grand Jury. Since it was an open and shut case (she did not deny she had been ordered to testify and had refused), no defense was allowed. Pam was not even allowed to tell the jury *why* she had refused to talk, and her supporters in the courtroom wore gags in symbolic protest. She is the tenth person, and the third white person, to be convicted under this repressive law.

The Puerto Rican Grand Jury is an attempt by the FBI to get at the revolutionary armed underground in the U.S. and on the island and those who support its politics. Since the investigation began, in 1978, it has met with a stone wall of resistance. Unable to get people to talk, the judges raised the penalty from a civil (maximum 18 months in jail) to a criminal charge. Five Puerto Rican and Mexican activists are already serving three-year prison terms, and three white people including Pam, are either in jail or scheduled to go. In the past 2½ years, eleven people have also been jailed for refusing to cooperate with a similar FBI-led investigation of the New Afrikan (Black) liberation movement, in particular the liberation of Assata Shakur from prison and the Brink's expropriation.

In refusing to collaborate, Pam and the other Grand Jury resisters follow a long tradition. In the 1930s the leaders of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party set the standard of uncompromising resistance by

going to jail rather than collaborate with a Grand Jury run by the colonizer of their nation. In the 1950s, hundreds defied the McCarthy witchhunts into the Communist Party here in the U.S. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg went to their deaths rather than give the FBI the victory of their cooperation. Anti-war militants and activists from the lesbian and feminist movements refused to cooperate with Grand Juries in the '60s. Silence has long been a tradition in the Black movement. Caught planning a slave rebellion in the 17th century, Denmark Vesey and his supporters went to their deaths but "never said a mumblin' word."

The FBI is escalating the use of Grand Juries. Before they issue subpoenas, they often snoop around using intimidation tactics. The FBI went to the job of a former member of JBAKC, Sandra Roland, to see if they could scare her. They met with a firm stand of non-collaboration. Everyone has a right NOT to talk to the FBI.

This summer over a hundred people and organizations (including JBAKC) signed a letter published in *The Guardian*, a progressive newspaper, condemning political Grand Juries and criminal contempt charges as political internment, similar to repression in South Africa and Northern Ireland.

Pam Fadem is a hospital worker from Texas. After her trial she returned to work until her sentencing appearance in September. When Reagan came to Austin July 20, the Secret Service "visited" Pam's department at Brackenridge Hospital and demanded she be kept away from work that day, in case Reagan needed medical care, because she was "associated with the most terrorist association in the U.S.—the FALN." •

### The Fight Against RICO Continues

The 1983 political trial of New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Sekou Odinga, anti-imperialist Silvia Baraldini, and others in New York was a major effort by the government to criminalize revolutionaries. In the 1950s, when the state used McCarthy laws to put communists in jail, it was clearly political. Today, the state is using organized crime statutes instead. Six people were charged with helping Black Liberation Army member Assata Shakur escape from prison, and with a number of unsolved bank robberies. Their defense focused on the right of the Black Nation to struggle for freedom, the government's use of traitors to frame activists, and the history of attack against Black Liberation. In a defeat for the state, the jury acquitted 2 defendants entirely, but 2 others were convicted of lesser charges, and Sekou and Silvia were convicted of conspiracy to free Assata Shakur. Appeals are being argued to challenge the government's use of organized crime laws [RICO—Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations] to try revolutionaries. The appeals also assert Sekou's demand for international POW recognition.

## "The Ghost of Christmas Past"

Two men who shot and killed a young Black man in 1977 lived openly for seven years in a Bronx community, where they bragged of the murder. One of them was referred to as "The Ghost of Christmas Past" because it was well known that he was the gunman. They were arrested and charged only when an unsought confession in another case forced police to act.

On Christmas Eve, 1977, Michael Dwain Johnson was 23 years old and a graduate student at Fordham University in the Bronx. He attended midnight mass at the chapel and after the service, stopped to talk with a friend, a white woman. He kissed her on the cheek and they said good-night. As he walked away he was followed by a red 1966 Mustang with two men in it. He was killed with a single shot from a .22 rifle.

At least ten people saw the murder, but no one came to Michael's aid except for a Jesuit priest who administered last rites on the sidewalk. No one in the predominantly white Kingsbridge section of the Bronx, where the racist killing took place, would testify. Police claimed the community "stonewalled" but they were quick them-

selves to drop the case. For seven years nothing was done—even though the gunman was regularly greeted in the neighborhood tavern where he hung out as "The Ghost of Christmas Past."

Then last fall, a robbery suspect fingered the killers to take the heat off himself and police re-opened the case. On July 11, William Brennan and Robert Alvarez, both 24, were arrested and charged with second degree murder. Both are vocal and open



William Patrick Brennan



Michael Stewart.

"Remember Michael Stewart, stop killer cops!"

200 Black people marched through downtown Manhattan August 3, then occupied the New York City offices of Governor Cuomo in a 36-hour sit-in as the struggle over the 1983 police murder of young Black graffiti artist Michael Stewart heated up and hit the streets. The demonstrators demanded that Cuomo appoint a special prosecutor in the case, because of the central role of the New York District Attorney, Robert Morgenthau, in the cover-up. They were also protesting the indictment, by Morgenthau's office, of one of the Stewart family attorneys in a set-up designed to retaliate against them.

Last September, Michael Stewart was beaten to death by transit police who claimed they caught him writing graffiti in the subway. The New York Medical Examiner, Dr. Eliot Gross, went so far as to remove the eyes from Michael's body to try and bleach out the retinal hemorrhages that showed he'd been strangled with a police chokehold. But persistent efforts by the Black community, the Stewart family attorneys and the Lower East Side punk-based "Friends of Michael Stewart" exposed the cover-up and demanded justice. The Michael Stewart case has become one of the most dramatic fights against police terror in New York City in recent years.

JBAKC has talked with several people who actually witnessed the murder of Michael Stewart at Union Square at 3:00 a.m. on September 15. One woman told us she heard a voice calling "please help me!" and saw a group of police beating a handcuffed person. She and others were afraid to intervene. Another man said he saw police toss the man into a van and drive off. "The sidewalk was covered with blood," he said. "The next morning it was all gone. There was not a trace."

Many of these people came forward to testify before the Grand Jury "investigating" the case, thinking that justice would be done. Actually, the Grand Jury, run by D.A. Morgenthau, was an essential part of the cover-up.

When the witnesses testified that eleven cops took part in the murder, Morgenthau granted immunity to eight of them; the eight then testified against the three arresting officers whose names were already public: John Kostick, Henry Boerner and Anthony Piscola. He then charged the three, not with murder, but with second degree manslaughter, for "allowing" the eight to kill their prisoner. This piece of

racists. Alvarez, of a Cuban refugee family, is a convicted burglar who has often bragged of his hatred for Black and Puerto Rican people. In 1977, when both men were 17, he owned a red 1966 Mustang.

Brennan, said to be the gunman, is a former contributor to "White Lightning," a white supremacist newspaper. He had applied for a job as a corrections officer but failed the medical test. Police found handcuffs and badges in his room and gun magazines mailed to a "Sgt. Brennan." At the time of his arrest he was wearing a badge under his clothing. Neighbors said he sometimes practiced shooting with a .22 in a nearby vacant lot.

Both are said to be members of a yet unnamed vigilante organization and are now being investigated in connection with other unsolved racist murders in the New York area. •

## The Murder of Michael Stewart: The Struggle Heightens

sophisticated legal deception, called by Stewart family lawyers a "Catch 22," grants immunity from prosecution to eight of the killers and lets off three by implying that they only watched the killing. The indictment itself is written so vaguely that it won't hold up in court; as the lawyers have pointed out, it is "designed for dismissal." It protects the police while deceiving the public into thinking justice is done.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, their lawyers and Black community activists were quick to denounce the phony indictments when they were issued in June, and renew the demand for a special prosecutor. Rallies were held in Brooklyn and Manhattan's Lower East Side. Activists at the arraignment of the three cops disrupted the courtroom proceedings as a "racist sham."



Killer cops Anthony Piscola and John Kostick.

Then on July 11, the state struck back. Alton Maddox, Jr., one of the Stewart family attorneys and a well-known advocate for the rights of Black people, was in court on another case when court officers violently jumped his client, Willie Bosket, who was being taken to jail and turned the wrong way in the hall by mistake. They beat Bosket, a Black youth, so savagely that they broke a table throwing him over it. Maddox demanded that the judge stop the beating, which was going on right in the courtroom. Judge Robert Haft just laughed. When Maddox protested he was thrown against a wall by court officers—and then later arrested and charged with assaulting them!

Ten Black attorneys, including Vernon Mason of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, appeared with Maddox in court, calling the prosecution an "unequivocal act of racism" and political retaliation against the Stewart family attorneys. The state is continuing to try Alton Maddox, Jr., and has not indicted the court officers for assaulting Bosket. The Black community has filled the courtroom at each court date. They applaud Maddox and the other attorneys as they refuse to apologize in exchange for a dismissal of the phony charges.

"There is absolutely nothing for which any Black person has to apologize to this justice system," said Maddox at a rally on the courthouse steps. "They want us to do a 'Jesse Jackson' but we will not." He then marched with the crowd to Cuomo's office to present a petition of over 6,000 signatures demanding a special prosecutor in the Stewart case.

In the latest attempt to clear the killers the police union is now saying that even the flimsy indictments are defective because a grand juror went to look at the site of the murder on his own and then talked about his feelings with other grand jurors.

The cops' assertions are in response to a grand juror who came forward and stated that the grand jury investigation was a sham. He says he could no longer, in good conscience, be complicit with the cover-up.

Ironically, these developments have put Morgenthau in the uncomfortable position of having to defend the indictments, and in an attempt to cover his own tracks, bring out information that shows the cops could have been charged with murder. •

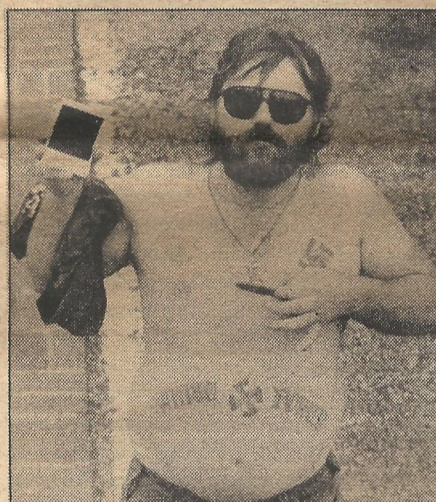
# Texas Klan Targets Mexican & Gay Communities

Since February, 1983, the Texas Klan has consistently raised the slogans that make Ronald Reagan their favorite government spokesperson: seal the border with Mexico; round up all "illegal aliens"; guard and promote national monuments to white supremacy (such as the Alamo in San Antonio) while promoting anti-communist patriotism; attack Black, Mexican and Vietnamese people; and an increasingly violent campaign against gay rights.

## Austin

After months of courtroom games, the Klan was finally confirmed to march in Austin on April 14. The barrage of media disinformation made it appear that the Austin City Council had done everything they could to prevent the march, but that the "constitutional right to free speech" had again prevailed. What this lie ignored was that the Black Citizens' Task Force (which led the People's Anti-Klan March in February, 1983) was repeatedly denied the right to have a march unless it was after the Klan had completed theirs. The excuse given was that an anti-Klan march would promote "violence." By having a judge make the rulings, individual city councilpersons were absolved of complicity in promoting the Klan, which the BCTF had made a campaign issue last year.

Once the date was set, the media turned it into a non-event except for articles and editorials directing people to ignore the Klan and quoting police chief Frank Dyson saying he would be ready for "anti-Klan



Dallas Klan supporter.

violence." The police presence on the 14th, close to 1000 troopers, exceeded the number of anti-Klan demonstrators and spectators and cost the city about \$250,000. There was also an unprecedented number of Klan supporters in the crowd. Some wore Klan T-shirts and tried to play an organized rear-guard role during the march.

When the Klan appeared, JBAKC began chanting, "Death to the Klan!" People joined with us, chanting and chasing the Klan up Congress Avenue. Because of police barricades we were forced to run up sidestreets and through alleys, picking up more angry anti-racist people at each stopping point.

At several points the Klan in the crowd tried to chant white power slogans. They were surrounded by a number of Black people who warned them to stop, and they backed down. This provided a lesson in isolating and neutralizing the plainclothes Klan.

When the Klan reached the state capitol they tried to hold a rally. They were effectively drowned out by the crowd, but the TV media, as usual, made sure the Klan would be heard on the televised version. In addition to their usual rhetoric, Grand Dragon Charles Lee said they wanted to get "gays off the streets."

The relatively small turnout (800 people) showed that we can't depend on spontaneous resistance to the Klan. In Austin, the state had clouded the issue since February, 1983 (when 2000 people came out to oppose the Klan), so much that people either felt they didn't have the right to confront the Klan, or were afraid because of possible

violence. It is clear that the government will actively disorganize people from taking a stand unless an alternative is fought for.

## Houston

When the Klan announced they would march through Montrose, Houston's gay community, they had already begun their anti-gay campaign. In the weeks before the June 9 march, several bar owners in the gay community received Klan death threats, and Charles Lee printed a letter in the Houston Post in which he called for gas chambers for gays and said that the Klan will kill all gay people when "God's law" is instituted. JBAKC posters in Montrose were systematically torn down, and a few nights before the march we saw Charles Lee personally patrolling the gay community in one of the Klan's "war wagons"—customized vans loaded with communications equipment and weapons.

In the weeks before the march there was an intense effort to disorganize the gay community, led by mayor Kathy Whitmire who was helped into office by the gay vote. The media and most leaders of gay organizations urged people to stay away. A split occurred in a number of gay organizations over whether to confront the Klan or not; we saw again that it is a dividing line issue. Some groups made provisions for people to watch the Klan from the safety of rooftops and inside restaurants lining the march route.

On June 9 the police set up early, creating an armed camp which included road blocks on all the sidestreets; the price tag of this martial law exercise was \$80,000. But the march route itself was only barricaded by ropes and storm troopers. The cops clearly didn't anticipate a large and militant crowd.

As people gathered, the mood changed from military intimidation to community solidarity. There were many Klan supporters in the crowd, but there were also many anti-Klan groupings with banners and placards.

When the Klan appeared sporadic chanting began. JBAKC raised the chant "Death to the Klan!" This rapidly became the main chant of the day. We were recognized by plainclothes cops and Klan supporters, who tried to surround us in the midst of the mobile, militant crowd. When the Klan in the crowd started calling us "communist pinkos," we pointed them out, yelling, "Klan supporters." This made them back off, as people turned and looked at them.

During the march the Klan singled out



Closing the Mexican border is demanded by the Klan at every Texas rally.

people in the crowd, pointing and yelling "Death to the Queers" as well as "white power." The four Klanswomen in the march were among the most vicious.

When they reached their buses, Lee tried to speak through his bullhorn. By then the anger of the crowd had built to a pressure-cooker level. Several bottles were thrown, but police made no attempt to enter the crowd for arrests. Lee was drowned out and became so flustered that his hood began to slip off. Frustrated, he threw down the bullhorn and got on the bus.

The militancy of the crowd of 1000, comprised of Black, Mexican and many



The charged scene outside court. NAPO demonstration confronts court marshals who were blocking entrance to the court and protecting the Klan.

## LA Courts Let Klan & Nazis Go

Reprinted from *By Any Means Necessary*, newspaper of the New Afrikan People's Organization

In a clear indication of the relationship of the state legal system and organized white supremacist groups, a Los Angeles municipal judge dismissed misdemeanor charges against 12 members of the Ku Klux Klan, Nazi party and Aryan Nation on June 20, after a series of pretrial hearings which lasted over six months.

The white supremacists had an arrangement with the L.A. police department, which included allowing themselves to be arrested after burning three crosses in the Lakeview Terrace area of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles. Lakeview Terrace is a primarily Black community in the valley.

The significance of this particular cross burning, besides its close proximity to the Black community, is that it was a unification act between three of the most dangerous and reactionary white terrorist organizations inside the U.S. This cross burning symbolizes, in affect, the national unifying of the front line of Amerikkkan fascist forces. It shows that this was not just a harmless meeting of rednecks as the American press has tried to portray it. It was attended by the top leadership of the three organizations.

Tom Metzger, leader of the California Klan and the winner of the Democratic primary in San Diego County for the congress in 1980 was at this meeting. Metzger ran for the Senate in 1982 and got 80,000 votes. Frank Silva of the KKK, Stanley

Witek of the American Nazi Party and the leader of the Aryan Nations, Richard Butler, were also there. This was no small-time meeting and the state and press know it though they try to hide it.

Since the arrest of the white terrorists, it has been evident that the city attorney and the courts were not serious about convicting them. Though many loud, supposedly anti-racist statements were made about the proceedings, the only real attempt at revealing the truth about the nature of the Klan-Nazi-Aryan united front was through mass action demonstrations at each of the court hearings led by the New Afrikan People's Organization supported by the New Afrikan (Black) community and the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee.

The court marshal, L.A. sheriff and city attorney continuously attempted to keep the demonstrators away from court proceedings. On one occasion they went as far as to tell a group of about 30 demonstrators that there were no more seats in the courtroom for them to sit in and observe the proceedings. Fortunately, several New Afrikans who had been inside the courtroom were able to report that this was a lie, and that there were at least 15 empty seats in the courtroom. The demonstrators then demanded to be admitted into the courtroom. Police reinforcements were called in and attempted to force the demonstrators out of the building.

The demonstrators, many of whom were members of the New Afrikan Security Union, demonstrated militant resistance. They refused to be ejected peacefully, obviously surprising their attackers with their discipline and poise under pressure. The conviction and discipline of the demonstrators was such that on the last court appearance of the white supremacists, June 20, police security was more than double as sheriff deputies were called in with full riot gear.

Obviously afraid of the possible results of refusing entry to the anti-Klan forces, marshals allowed them into the courtroom after sending them through an electronic search. Akinyele Ujoma, National Secretary of the New Afrikan People's Organization, said that "Decisions such as this and the ones in Greensboro, North Carolina, make it clear that the judicial system and police don't work in the interest of Black people." The New Afrikan People's Organization believes that it is only through militant action and support for New Afrikan Freedom Fighters, Land and Independence for the Black Nation, that we will achieve justice in our lifetime.

The Klan and other white terrorists are gaining moral and political support for their program of white supremacy every day through the U.S. courts. Every day more and more so-called civil rights gains are being reversed in favor of white supremacy and with the blessings of the Civil Rights Commission and the Supreme Court. It is only through active resistance and organization that we will be able to gain justice from terrorist activities such as in Greensboro and Lakeview Terrace.

## Eroy Brown: He Fought the Law...and Won

On April 4, 1981, Eroy Brown, a Black prisoner assigned to the Ellis Unit of the Texas Dept. of Corrections (TDC) was involved in a confrontation with prison farm manager Billy Max Moore and Ellis Unit warden Wallace Pack. This was not unusual, as prisoners of TDC are routinely harassed and brutalized by prison guards and officials. What was unusual was when the dust had settled, Moore and Pack were dead, not Brown; and even more unusual, after three separate trials, Eroy Brown is a free man, acquitted twice, with a hung jury in the first trial.

On April 4, 1981, Eroy Brown was working at his prison job in the tractor shop when prison farm superintendent Bill Adams overheard him complain to other prisoners about not getting a furlough. Adams mistook Brown's complaint to mean that Brown was about to reveal to higher authorities that he had been helping Adams and Billy Max Moore steal tires, fuel and other state property. Adams slapped Brown and reprimanded him for talking about the stealing and took him to Moore, who was working nearby. Upon hearing Adams' account of what happened, Moore said: "What do you mean, n---r, down there running your head [mouth]?" Adams and Moore then accused Brown of stealing liquor, drinking home-brew and smoking marijuana. When he denied this, he was put into Moore's pick-up, driven along the levee above Turkey Creek and beaten while sitting between Moore and Adams. Moore summoned Warden Pack and when he arrived in his car, Adams went back to the tractor shop.

After a short conversation, Moore and Pack called Brown out of the pick-up, put him spread-eagled on the hood of the truck, and while Pack held his pistol to Brown's head, Moore attempted to handcuff him. While Pack threatened to "splatter your brains all over this road," Moore said, "I'm gonna take you to the Bottoms and drown you." The Bottoms is a notorious area along the Trinity River where Ellis Unit prisoners are taken to be disciplined... or murdered.

Brown, understanding that the trip to the Bottoms was one-way, began to struggle for his life. He knocked the gun out of Pack's hand. In the struggle to gain control of the pistol, several shots were fired, one striking Brown in the foot and one hitting Moore in the head, killing him. Pack and Brown continued to fight for the gun, and in the struggle they ended up in Turkey Creek, where after several attempts to get Warden Pack to give up, Brown drowned him.

It is important to place this event in the context of the upheaval that was taking place in the TDC overall. Only a few months before, in December, 1980, after a year-long case in Federal Court brought by a prisoner, many of TDC's policies and procedures had been exposed and ruled illegal, specifically brutality, inadequate security, poor to nonexistent health care, and overcrowding. This decision (*Ruiz v. Estelle*—the warden's name) and the reform decree issued by the court were the result of years of struggle by prisoners and their supporters to expose the inhumane conditions in TDC.

Eroy Brown's successful self-defense was

a direct challenge to the racist Texas prison system. He refused to turn up floating in the Bottoms like so many before him. He resisted, and this resistance—along with his subsequent acquittals (despite 3 trials and over one million dollars spent to prosecute him) was a major victory for the principle of self-defense. Eroy Brown never denied involvement in Moore's and Pack's deaths; he simply said that on April 4, 1981, it was either him or them. In three trials 35 out of 36 jurors believed him, with one juror in the first trial for Pack's murder holding out against acquittal.



Eroy Brown.

After the first mistrial, the state elected to retry Brown, understanding the importance of getting a conviction and death penalty in the case. They needed to shore up TDC's crumbling public image.

In the second Pack murder trial, all the prisoners called as defense witnesses refused to testify, citing the harassment and intimidation of 19 prisoners who had testified at the first trial. This harassment had resulted in a federal court issuing a temporary restraining order during the first trial against TDC and ultimately ordering 6 of the 19 transferred to federal prisons, and 6 others sent to other units within TDC.

In spite of the prisoners' refusal to testify (except for two snitches called by the state); in spite of death threats against Brown and his lawyers; and in spite of large sums of money from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, it took the jury only two hours and 20 minutes to reach a not guilty verdict. One juror said afterward: "We really didn't discuss it that much...we concluded it was self-defense."

Now desperate for a conviction, the state decided to make some changes—to try Brown for Moore's death instead of Pack's, move the trial to a new location (for the 2nd time), and reduce the charge from capital murder to first degree murder, which carries no death penalty.

The trial was moved from the Houston area to Edinburg in south Texas, but the state received some unfavorable publicity when a federal court issued a restraining order preventing the state of Texas from providing money to prosecute the third trial because the state had refused to provide funding for Brown's defense as an indigent. The state later agreed to give an equal amount to both the defense and prosecution. They shouldn't have spent the money. It took the jury less than two hours to reach a not guilty verdict.

His acquittal on May 2, 1984, ended a 3 year ordeal for Eroy Brown. However, the ordeal continues for the 35,000 prisoners of TDC. Wallace Pack was the first warden "killed in the line of duty," but given conditions in TDC and the heroic example of Eroy Brown he may not be the last.

This case is not a vindication of the criminal justicial system—it is the exception rather than the rule. Because of the *Ruiz v. Estelle* victory, because of Pack and Moore's reputation for violence and brutality, because of the exceptional publicity surrounding the case, because of the blatant maneuvers of the state inside and outside the courtroom, and most of all, because of the unshakeable determination of Eroy Brown—the truth won out this time.

Today, TDC is rocked not just by the effects of *Ruiz v. Estelle* and *Texas v. Brown*, but by a series of scandals involving millions of dollars in bribes, kickbacks, misappropriations of funds with top TDC officials implicated. (No criminal indictments, of course.) The scene in the tractor shop with Eroy Brown was the but the tiniest tip of the iceberg.

## New Afrikan Organization

The New Afrikan People's Organization is an organization that grows out of struggles for human rights and self-determination. It developed from local struggles against racist violence, struggle for control of education in the Black community, equality and full participation of New Afrikan (Black) women in the Black Liberation Movement, and struggles to free New Afrikan Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.

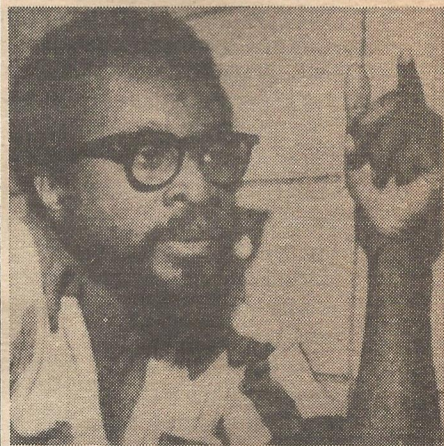
NAPO is fully committed to the building of a sovereign socialist Black nation—The Republic of New Afrika. NAPO, along with other forces in the New Afrikan Independence Movement, sees what is presently known as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina or what has been called the Black Belt South as the national territory of the Black nation (New Afrika), and seeks to build a national liberation movement to free the land by any means necessary. This land is the land Black people have lived on a long time and developed into a unique people on, worked and built upon, and which despite lynch mobs, the terror of white supremacists like the Ku Klux Klan and economic repression over 53% of the Black nation still resides in the New Afrikan national territory and border areas (Ten-

## BLA Trials

*"Free the Land"  
"Free the Land"  
"Clear the Land"*

A New Afrikan Freedom Fighter on trial in Queens, NY, this March, was convicted of attempted murder for shooting back at the cops who captured him and killed his comrade. Sekou Odinga, a long-time revolutionary and a member of the Black Liberation Army (BLA), was tried under repressive conditions designed to project his political trial as a "criminal" case.

On October 23, 1981, two days after the Brink's expropriation in Nyack, NY, Mtayari Shabaka Sundiata was killed and Sekou Odinga was captured in a gun battle with police in Queens. Both Sekou and Mtayari were members of the underground Black Liberation Army and had long been sought by the FBI and other repressive forces. They were chased after their car was identified with information from the FBI.



Sekou Odinga.

Mtayari was shot in cold blood after he surrendered. After his capture Sekou was tortured by members of the NYPD/FBI Joint Terrorist Task Force, but refused to give information.

Then this former Black Panther was charged with attempted murder for defending himself against the police who were trying to kill him. Sekou's position is that he is a captured Prisoner of War and a soldier in an anti-colonial war for the liberation of New Afrika, the Black nation in North America.

The trial was conducted in Queens in the same specially constructed courtroom where two other BLA prisoners, Basheer Hamid and Abdul Majid, were tried last



This is *not* a cotton plantation during slavery. It is the Ellis unit of the TDC in 1968. These conditions still exist today.

Photo by Danny Lyon

## Black Marine Refuses to Fight for U.S.

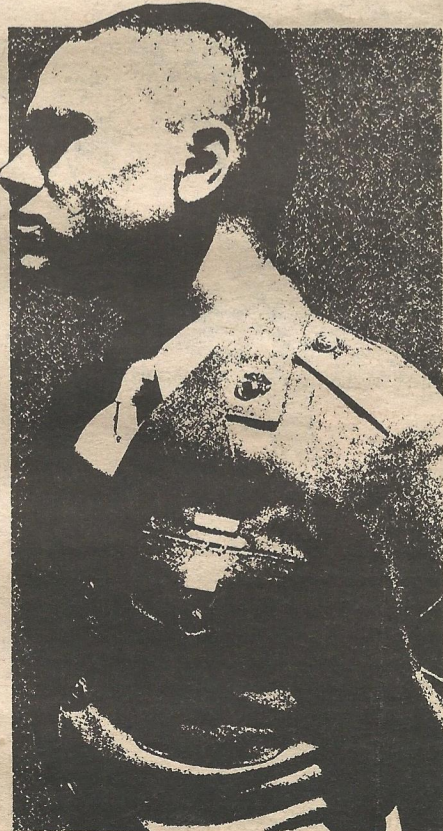
In October, 1983, the U.S. military's worst nightmare began to come true. A Black Marine refused to go first to Lebanon and then to Grenada, saying he would not kill Muslims or Black people.

In one of the first open acts of resistance to the current U.S. war drive, Corporal Alfred Griffin deliberately went AWOL and missed his troop movements to the Middle East and the Caribbean. In response, the Marine Corps court martialled him and sentenced him to four months at hard labor.

"I felt I could not participate in the Grenada invasion or in the Lebanon situation because we were being the aggressors," Griffin said. He had originally looked forward to going to Lebanon, when he thought the U.S. was on a peacekeeping mission (as they claimed) but changed his mind when he learned of the attacks on the progressive Lebanese and Palestinian forces.

The military refused to allow the "Nuremberg" defense: that because the U.S. actions in Lebanon and Grenada were in violation of international law, Griffin had not only a right, but a duty to refuse.

No Black Marines were willing to testify against Griffin, and many have supported him. The head of the Islamic Community at Camp Lejeune said: "We all feel proud that Brother Griffin stood up for his beliefs." Griffin's political supporters point out that as a Black person, his real fight is against imperialism, not for it. In a solidarity demonstration on the day of his court martial, protesters at the Harlem Armed Forces Center said, "Black soldiers, turn your weapons around, your fight is here at home."



# an People's ion Formed

nessee, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, East Texas and Arkansas).

NAPO is committed to revolutionary nationalism, anti-imperialism and socialism. It seeks to organize the combative

resistance of the Black nation to oppose white supremacy and fight for liberation and build support for New Afrikan Freedom Fighters who defend the Black nation and fight for its liberation from clandestinity.

**New Afrikan People's Organization P.O. Box 2348 New York, NY 10027**



and," said the defendant.  
and," said his supporters.  
the court," said the judge.

from the NY Daily News, March 14, 1984

year. Two extra doors were built to control entrance to the courtroom. Sekou's supporters were forced to sign their names, then searched twice and closely watched in the courtroom. The judge cleared the courtroom during Sekou's opening statement when supporters responded to him with the revolutionary greeting of the New Afrikan Independence Movement, "Free the Land." A Black supporter was barred from the trial because he helped an excused juror find her coat. Three women were barred because they objected to a court officer calling them "girls." Sekou, who defended himself, was not allowed to cross the room to address the jury. Evidence about his political history and the liberation struggle of New Afrikan (Black) people was not permitted.

The state would not allow evidence about how the police identified Mtayari and Sekou in the first place, because this would open up the political issues in the trial. FBI COINTELPRO documents were not allowed, even when they named Sekou and revealed that he had been the special target of FBI counter-insurgency.

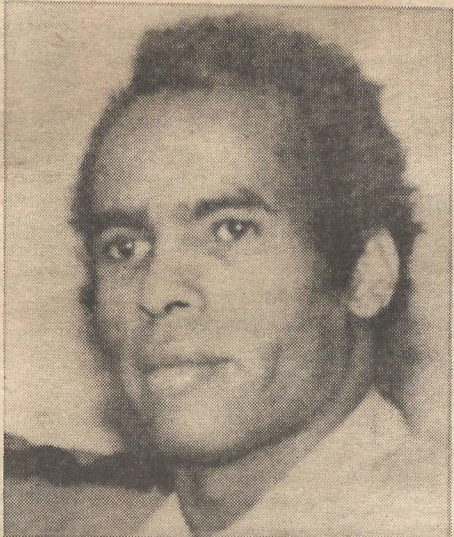
Sekou's defense was that the police were trying to kill him and he testified that Mtayari was shot down while unarmed by NYPD Det. Irwin Jacobson, who was decorated by the NYPD for this cold-blooded murder.

Mtayari Shabaka Sundiata was a political activist in the Brownsville school struggle in Brooklyn who then became a full-time revolutionary. A commemorative program to honor him has been held in Harlem every year since his murder.

Sekou also introduced medical evidence that he was burned with a cigar and his toenails were pulled out by members of the Terrorist Task Force while he was being interrogated. He was in Kings County hospital for four months recovering from police torture.

Sekou is a citizen of the Republic of New Afrika, the Black Nation in the U.S., and identifies himself as a New Afrikan Freedom Fighter. The New Afrikan Movement is struggling for an independent Black nation on the land now occupied by the five states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama.

This trial is only one in a series the U.S. is using to try and criminalize captured freedom fighters and the New Afrikan movement in general. In last year's federal RICO ("racketeering") conspiracy trial, Sekou and a white communist, Silvia Baraldini, were sentenced to 40 years for their alleged role in freeing BLA fighter Assata Shakur from prison in 1979. Assata is still free. Sekou is also charged with political expropriations in New Jersey.



Kuwasi Balagoon.

A BLA soldier, Kuwasi Balagoon, who was convicted in the "Brink's" trial in Goshen, New York, along with Judith Clark and David Gilbert, will go on trial in September in the Bronx for an alleged BLA expropriation in 1978. Kuwasi has introduced a motion that he be treated as a POW under the Geneva accords, but the court has denied it. Kuwasi will take this case to the United Nations.

Both Kuwasi and Sekou were among the "Panther 21" framed by the FBI in 1969 and acquitted of all charges in 1971. Sekou was a member of the BPP's international section in Algeria before returning to the U.S. to build the Black Liberation Army underground. Since their capture, they have exemplified revolutionary principles by never collaborating with the enemy.

Sekou is now being held in Marion prison. Kuwasi is being held in Attica prison.

**Detroit, Michigan:** One of the U.S.'s industrial centers is suffering the effects of the crisis of imperialism. Black people, who were forced from their homeland in the south, came north in search of jobs, and made up a large percentage of the labor force in the auto industry. But now, unemployment among Black people in Detroit 18 to 40 years of age is 60%—the workers are being replaced by machines. For Black people who do still have jobs, their income is 52% that of white people.

In an effort to contain the protest and rebellion that will happen in such conditions, Detroit has a curfew on all young people and the police arrest numerous young people and lock them up for curfew violation. In 1983, a Chinese man named Vincent Chin was beaten to death by white racists who thought he was Japanese and blamed him for their loss of jobs due to the auto industry seeking more profitable manufacturing sites abroad. There are very active Klan and Nazi formations in and around Detroit, and there have also been several occasions when progressive demonstrators have driven the Nazis off the streets.

Detroit has a long history of struggle by New Afrikan (Black) people. It had a very active Black Panther Party Chapter, and Black workers organizations: Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM), Eldon Revolutionary Union Movement (ELRUM). Detroit was one of many cities where the Black community rebelled in the 60s and the National Guard was called out. In 1968 it was the site of the founding of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika (RNA), the provisional government of Black people in the U.S. The RNA's goal is to establish an independent nation in what is now Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. In March, 1983, Nation Day activities, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the founding of the RNA attracted 4,000 Black people from Detroit and around the country.

Recently Death to the Klan! interviewed Chokwe Lumumba, Minister of Justice of the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika about the RNA's Community Action Task Force.

## Militant Community Action in Detroit

**What is the Community Action Task Force (CATF) and when was it started?**

**Chokwe Lumumba:** The RNA started the CATF in November, 1983, as a means to engage the New Afrikan community in action against the state and the different economic and political powers that keep New Afrikan people colonized. Our aim is through action and agitation to raise the national consciousness of our people with the goal of creating a national liberation movement. We believe that educational activities such as rallies are important, but that action is necessary.

**What does the CATF do?**

One of our major projects has been to deal with the gas company. Due to the crisis in our community many poor people, particularly the elderly, were having their gas turned off because they couldn't afford to pay the bill. A number of people actually died because of this. The CATF has organized people in the community to prevent the gas company from shutting off people's service.

When someone is served a shut-off notice, they call the CATF, and people from the community come to their house. They literally prevent the gas company from coming in and turning off the gas.

The gas company sent a Black spokesman to meet with the CATF, who promised not to turn off people's gas during the winter. When someone receives a shut-off notice they call the CATF, and the CATF calls this spokesman and tells him the person concerned is part of the community and it wouldn't be a good idea to try and turn off their gas. However, we expect the struggle to escalate because they are still trying to collect money, and will probably try to shut off the gas now that it is summer.

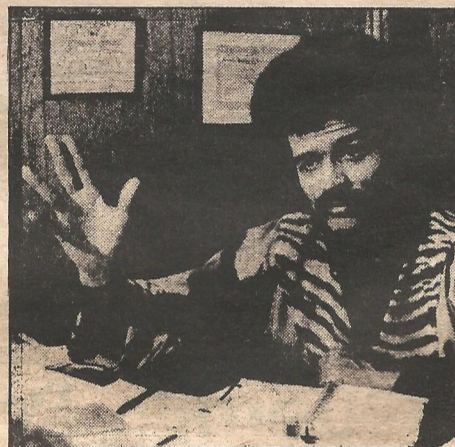
**This is clearly a major issue in oppressed communities. I'm reminded of Mrs. Eula Love, a Black mother in Los Angeles, who by herself tried to prevent the gas company from turning off her gas and was murdered by the police.**

That's right, if she'd had community support, she probably wouldn't be dead today.

**What else does the CATF do?**

Our other project has been security. Due to the effects of our colonized condition, a number of social pathologies are seriously affecting our community, particularly our youth. The problems of drug pushing and addiction, break-ins and an escalating number of rapes are victimizing the Black community, more than any other community.

We see these rapes as a product of a system that fails to give a proper direction to our youth; that with its economic conditions and social propaganda encourages men to objectify and abuse women; that



Chokwe Lumumba, Minister of Justice of the Republic of New Afrika.

with its lack of positive identity and ways to express personal dignity, importance and prestige, creates this false, perverted sense of "macho" identity.

Years ago the Black Panther Party and the New Afrikan Legionaires were active and offered an opportunity for New Afrikan youth to become involved in something positive. The FBI eliminated these groups and others. The CATF has as one of its goals to put that kind of presence, that people can identify with, back on the streets.

**What has the CATF done to prevent rape?**

The CATF has done two things. One is to provide security for women who have been raped and are threatened with being attacked again. The other is to provide security for women who have been threatened; we have been successful in securing them and their homes so that they were not raped. We have also stopped some instances of people's homes being shot up and have caught some people who have ripped off others. In one instance the stolen property was recovered, and the culprit was brought before community justice.

The goal of this agitation technique is to expose the inability and disinterest of the system in protecting Black people, and to show Black people that by relying on ourselves, we can take care of our communities. In the summer we hope to set up community patrols that will provide more extensive security.

**Who from the community is involved in the CATF?**

The CATF was started by revolutionary nationalists and has grown to include a cross-section of men and women from our community. The majority of the members now are young people. We expect that as we grow we will include all ages.

**What are your plans for the future?**

We are looking at the welfare situation, and all the abuses by the welfare system, such as workfare. [Ed. note: workfare is forcing people to work at minimum wage jobs for

See Community Action, page 12

THE BLACK NATION IN STRUGGLE

# from the armed resistance...

Due to lack of space, we excerpted these communiques of the UFF and the RGR. Write to us for the full text.

## United Freedom Front

Communique #9

August 21, 1984

Today, armed units of the United Freedom Front attack the General Electric Corporation's offices of the aerospace strategic planning and aircraft division, Huntington Quadrangle, Huntington, New York. This action is in response to the vicious escalation of the air war in El Salvador, which in recent months alone has caused the deaths of hundreds of Salvadoran civilians, primarily children, women and elderly people who remain in the villages that are bombed.

General Electric (GE), the fourth largest military contractor in the U.S. and the second largest in New York state, has millions of dollars of military contracts with the U.S. government and its fascist accomplices. GE supplies the turbo-jet engines that power the A-37-B "Dragonfly" attack aircraft used in El Salvador. This war plane carries up to 6000 pounds of bombs and other weaponry and has dropped cluster bombs, napalm and white phosphorus on the civilian population. Also mounted on the A-37-B is the GE manufactured 7.62mm mini-gun which has a rate of fire of 6000 rounds per minute. In a strategy based on terrorizing the civilian population, the A-37-B has dropped up to 30 bombs a day on the Salvadoran People. The A-37-B is the most powerful bomber in the armed forces of El Salvador, Honduras and the genocidal regime of Guatemala.

The recently appropriated \$70 million

granted to the fascist Salvadoran government by Congress as they rushed off to their vacations, adds to the hundreds of millions of dollars to perpetuate a war against the Freedom-seeking People of El Salvador. This same money could be used instead to help meet the basic human needs of the poor and working People of this country and other nations.

The farce of the CIA-backed election of Duarte has brought no significant changes to El Salvador. The military/oligarchy still rules! U.S. imperialism is still entrenched and expanding in the region. Duarte has turned his back on the legitimate proposals for peace offered by the FMLN/FDR. The fact is that when Duarte was president before, during 1980-82, a major search and destroy strategy was carried out killing tens of thousands of people. The government junta, while under the leadership of Duarte, assassinated many in the political leadership of FDR and the Arch Bishop Romero, as well as the four American Maryknoll clergywomen. Death squads ran rampant and several massacres took place including the December 1981 massacre of almost 1000 peasants in El Mozote, Morazan Province. The truth is that Duarte is a terrorist backed by the U.S. government ...

Indications are that the Ray-gun government is preparing for a massive U.S. invasion of the Central American region with the probable use of U.S. combat troops. The U.S. has built up a military infrastruc-

ture in Honduras, constantly engaging in war maneuvers on the borders of El Salvador and Nicaragua. The largest war maneuvers that have ever taken place in the Caribbean were recently concluded. This included the use of the Guantanamo base, troops on Puerto Rico and the Island of Vieques, disregarding totally the rights of the Peoples of these lands. In addition, there has been increased funding to the murderous regime in Guatemala and large scale contra attacks on Nicaragua with many civilian casualties as a result.

Opposition to the U.S. imperialist policies in Central America is ever-increasing. While this is encouraging, it must continue to grow and broaden. Community and church gatherings, demonstrations and occupations, the growth of the underground railroad/the sanctuary movement as well as armed actions all demand that the People of this country do not want another Vietnam. The government's reaction to this opposition has been to send out its secret police (FBI) to intimidate people and organizers, split heads at demonstrations and to try to make the sanctuary of Central American refugees a criminal act.

The United Freedom Front salutes all of those involved with these efforts but a special salute to those who make the greatest sacrifices: the courageous and enduring People of El Salvador and of Nicaragua. We congratulate the soldiers and cadre of the FMLN on their recent military victories!

The UFF is continuing its campaign against war profiteers with an armed attack against GE. Far from "bringing good things to life," these death merchants have always placed profits before people. Under the guise of progress they have expanded their

business from that of light bulb and radio producers to supplying oppressive regimes with some of the most deadly and destructive weaponry available to date...

The GE produced A-37-B attack jet with its GE "muttering death" mini-gun is merely one aircraft and one gun in a vast GE produced arsenal. To name but a few, this arsenal includes jet engines for attack planes and bombers, aircraft and other guns, armored vehicles, helicopter engines, ammunition and extensive involvement in nuclear weapons production including the Trident nuclear powered sub ...

GE has a long history of supplying its weaponry to the U.S. government which in turn has supplied it to some of the most reactionary governments on the face of the earth. GE's A-37-A "Dragonfly" was used extensively in Vietnam on bombing runs....

GE is a rich, powerful and fat corporation, which is profiting from the suffering of the People of El Salvador and Nicaragua, as it profited from the Vietnam war....

These maggots sit in their boardrooms and calculate their millions in profits while the People suffer....

For Comrade George Jackson—murdered August 21, 1971—....

"People are already dying who could be saved. Generations more will die or live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Discover humanity and your love in revolution. Pass on the torch. Join us, give up your own life for the People."

—Comrade George

Defeat U.S. Imperialism and Its Death Merchants!  
U.S. Out of El Salvador—Hands Off Nicaragua!  
Victory to the South African People—  
Death to Apartheid!  
Free All POW's and Political Prisoners!  
Revolutionary Love and Support to the Locked  
Down Freedom Fighters and Grand Jury Resisters!  
Hasta La Victoria Final!

## Red Guerrilla Resistance

April 4, 1984

Tonight we struck against the "Israeli" military by bombing the New York headquarters of Israel Aircraft Industry (IAI).

36 years ago this month, Menachem Begin led the forces of the Irgun in a massacre of 250 Palestinian men, women and children at Deir Yassin. Genocide literally paved the way for the establishment of the Zionist state a month later. 36 years later, Begin is a respected elder statesman and his fascist Herut party controls the "Israeli" government.

Today, the joint U.S./"Israeli" vision of a "greater Israel" and a totally dominated Middle East has faltered against the steadfast resistance of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The Camp David accords, the imperialist/Zionist blueprint for control of the region, has been dealt a serious blow by the progressive forces in Lebanon. "Israel" has found that the guerrilla forces of the Lebanese and Palestinian people not only resisted their war machine during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, but continue to resist in occupied Lebanon, the West Bank, and in occupied Palestine. We act tonight in solidarity with those courageous fighters whose goal is the liberation of their peoples.

IAI is a key part of the "Israeli" war machine and is run directly by the "Israeli" government. They customize and maintain the U.S.-supplied F15 and F16 jets that were used in the massive civilian bombing of Beirut in 1982. IAI produces the Kfir fighter, the Dabar and Devora patrol boats, and almost every major weapons system used by the "Israeli" military. The U.S. Congress and Reagan administration have just given "Israel" \$550 million to have IAI develop and produce a line of "Israeli"-made jet fighters. It is the first time that the

U.S. has directly funded another country's ability to become militarily self-sufficient.

IAI plays a central role in the arming of fascist governments around the world. When domestic and international pressure forced the U.S. to cut off arms to Somoza in Nicaragua and to the military dictatorships in Guatemala in the late 1970's, "Israel" stepped in with patrol boats and aircraft produced by IAI. When South Africa needs jet fighters, the U.S. ships fighters to "Israel" where IAI makes them combat ready and transfers them to South Africa. ...

**ZIONISM IS RACISM.** The essence of Zionism is settler colonialism, with its theft of the land, genocide of Palestinian and Arab people, and blatant white supremacy. This was exposed at Deir Yassin, at Beirut, at the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The official state terrorism is paralleled by the rise of unofficial death squads of settler/soldiers responsible for the recent attacks on Palestinians at Bir Zeit University and throughout the West Bank. TNT, the "Israeli" counterpart of the U.S.-based Jewish Defense League, is as much a death squad as any in El Salvador or Guatemala. Because Zionism is based in

white supremacy, Zionists actively build racism toward Third World people in this country as well. ...

**Zionism is an international movement based in the U.S.** The world Zionist movement has innumerable organizational forms that maintain "Israel's" existence through a flow of colonists, a massive transfer of money, and an intensive propaganda campaign. ...

**"Israel" is part of the U.S. imperial system.** The U.S. and "Israel" openly admit their strategic unity. It is a unity based in imperialist domination of the Middle East and a common goal of destroying the progressive forces in the region. Any differences are tactical. When "Israel" could not sustain the occupation of the whole of Lebanon, the U.S. moved in and allowed "Israel" to withdraw. Now that the U.S. has been forced to retreat, "Israel" will move to partition the country and maintain the fascist Phalange party in power. ...

There is an answer to the "problem" in the Middle East. The solution lies in the establishment of a democratic and secular Lebanon; it lies in the establishment of a democratic and secular Palestinian state as called for by the PLO. It is the anti-

imperialist solution supported by progressive forces around the world. Only racism and implicit or explicit collaboration with Zionism has allowed the anti-imperialist movement here to say little and do less as the U.S. Navy bombarded Beirut or Congress voted to finance further "Israeli" military aggression.

... We hope our action tonight will contribute to the building of a movement here that will combat Zionism as an integral part of our struggle to defeat U.S. imperialism.

If we want to end imperialist war, we must be prepared to sacrifice and to fight. It is a bitter self-deception to believe any politician can bring peace when the U.S. ruling class wants war. We need to demand more of ourselves. ... Armed struggle and mass resistance are powerful weapons in the hands of the oppressed. We, too, need to take them up.

Victory to the Lebanese People!  
Long Live the Lebanese National Movement!  
Victory to the Palestinian People!  
Long Live the PLO!  
Build the International Guerrilla Front  
Against Imperialism!  
Build a Revolutionary  
Resistance Movement!  
Death to  
Imperialism and Zionism!



Palestinian fighters in the defense of Khalde.

# The Phalange: The KKK of Lebanon

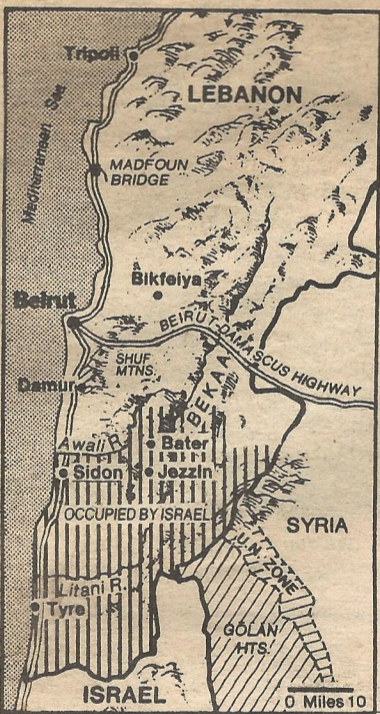
by S. T. Habib

Many Americans find it hard to make sense of what is going on in Lebanon. All they know is that there is a war, sometimes characterized as a civil war, sometimes as a war of liberation against an occupying power supported by the Soviet Union. In either case, official propaganda from Washington, echoed obediently by the mass media, has presented the cause of the Phalangist party as the cause of all Lebanese. They are portrayed as the victims of outside aggression from Syria, as the defenders of democracy against terrorism, communism, and all the "evils" the American public is taught to abhor.

The reality, however, is quite different. In many ways, the Phalange might be called the "KKK of Lebanon." To understand this, we must look beyond the lies and myths designed to present American policy in a favorable light and deny support to the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The conflict in Lebanon is complicated, and cannot be understood in terms of simple labels. It is not, as the U.S. government and media portray, a conflict between Christians and Moslems, or between Lebanese and Palestinians. The conflict in Lebanon is a struggle between international imperialism and zionism on one hand, and the progressive forces of socialism, Arab revolution and the Palestinian national liberation movement on the other. This battle, in which every sector of Lebanese society has had a role to play, has profound effects around the world. 250 U.S. marines were killed there, sent by the U.S. in a vain attempt to shore up the government of the Phalangist minority.

The struggle in Lebanon is based in long-standing political and class contradictions. The Phalangists are a fascist force, backed by U.S. imperialism and Israel, formed to fight the progressive forces that struggle for a democratic, Arab Lebanon. These progressive forces include Shiites, Druze, and



Sunni Moslems, progressive Christian forces, and socialist and communist Lebanese organizations. And, of course, the Palestinians, represented by the PLO.

The large number of Palestinians in Lebanon is a result of the forced eviction of Palestinians from their homeland—now occupied by the zionist state of Israel. Murder, terror and torture, the historic tactics of colonialism, were used to drive the Palestinians from their land in 1948. In 1971, persecution in Jordan forced thousands more to become refugees in Lebanon. The Palestinian and Lebanese masses formed the Lebanese National Movement, which included Moslem and Christian Lebanese and the PLO. Together, they fought Israeli incursions and attacks in the south of Lebanon, and struggled for a democratic Lebanon. One of the aims of the 1982 invasion by Israel was to destroy this alliance.

Another aspect of the Lebanese conflict was inherited from the colonial past. In order to divide the Lebanese and ensure imperialist power, the French colonialists set up a "confessional" or sectarian gov-



The "black hand," a Phalangist death threat, appeared on Palestinian homes before the massacres.

ernment, in which each sect is guaranteed so many seats in Parliament—with the largest block going to the pro-European Christian Maronite sect. This sect was also guaranteed the office of president. All this was based on a 1930's census in which the Maronites were the largest sect by a small majority, and the Christians in general did slightly exceed the Moslem population. It is to be noted that Lebanon, in its present boundaries, is an artificial entity carved out of Greater Syria by the French—and done in such a way as to give the Christians that slight majority.

Since then things have changed and today the population in Lebanon is 60% Moslem and 40% Christian (of which 23% are Maronite). Clearly the support of the U.S. and Israel for the Phalangist Party (which is 82% Maronite) is based on common goals.

Since before 1948 and the formation of the zionist state, the zionists have wanted southern Lebanon for part of "Greater Israel." After the 1967 War, Moshe Dayan, then Minister of Defense, wrote: "Now Israeli borders are geographically natural, except the northern border of Lebanon." The Phalangists have been willing to help win southern Lebanon for the zionists, in return for military support in the north.

This strategy has at its core, of course, the necessity for "removing the large Moslem population" (in the words of Ben Gurion). This genocidal policy is the lynch pin of imperialist strategy in Lebanon and is the political basis of U.S./Israeli support for the Phalange.

The current civil war started in 1975 when Phalangist gunmen attacked a busload of Palestinian civilians, killing 27 people traveling between the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatillah and Tel al Zaatar. This was only the needed spark. Tensions had been building for years. Threatened by the growing military power of the PLO, their guerrilla war against the zionists and their alliances with the Lebanese left, the Phalangists had begun arming themselves for what they saw as the inevitable conflict. They had succeeded in establishing a large, moderately well trained paramilitary organization, though as the first few years of the war showed, they were no match for the PLO.

As the civil war heightened, the Syrian army intervened, under a mandate by the Arab League. This was in 1976, at a time when the Lebanese National Front (composed of progressive Lebanese Christian and Moslem forces, and the Palestinians) had all but succeeded in defeating the right-wing Phalangist unofficial army.

Whatever the motives behind the Syrian intervention (the imperialist Kissinger called it "constructive"), it stopped the progressive forces and saved the Phalangists from total defeat. The result was that the Phalangists were able to retrain, and with Israeli assistance, take the offensive in some sectors under their control; in other words, they succeeded in "clearing" dominantly Chris-

tian areas of Moslem and Palestinian people. The methods used were among the most atrocious in the history of warfare. At Karantina civilians were shot and IDF (Israeli Defense Force) bulldozers used to level their homes. At Tel al Zaatar thousands of women and children were slaughtered, after a long and heroic resistance, while Syria looked the other way and Israel provided logistical support to the Phalange. The very same people were responsible for the better publicized massacres at Sabra and Shatillah refugee camps after the Israeli invasion in 1982.

## Who are the Phalangists?

Who are the Phalangists, these loyal allies of zionism and imperialism? What are their beliefs? Their aspirations? The party was founded in the 1930s by Pierre Gemayel, the father of the current president of Lebanon. Gemayel, in his youth, spent some years in Spain, and was impressed by the ideas and discipline of the Fascist party. On his return he founded the Lebanese counterpart. In political orientation, the Phalangist party is similar to other ultra-right wing, reactionary forces found elsewhere in the world.

Maronite Christians are the base of the Phalange. Many do not consider themselves Arabs, but rather look toward Europe for their values and models. When French missionaries came to Lebanon in the 19th century, the main focus of their efforts were the Maronites. The result was that this sector of Christians became the more educated class, speaking European languages and benefiting from trade with the West. This is why the Christians are the wealthier class today as well. They regard themselves as inherently superior. Many discourage their children from speaking Arabic, French being their ideal language. They were, from the beginning, opposed to Arab nationalism, cooperating with the various colonial powers, from the French to the U.S. today. This privileged elite understood that their status could be maintained only through the oppression and exploitation of the poor of Lebanon and alliance with imperialism. Based on defending their privilege and fascist ideology, their tactics are barbaric, but no different from the fascists in Israel or other U.S. backed dictatorships around the world.

## Zionist Terror in New York

The Soviet diplomatic residential compound in Riverdale, New York, was bombed by a right-wing Zionist group, Jewish Direct Action, on February 23. Three bombs exploded on the grounds at 3:15 a.m. No one was injured. An anonymous phone call to the press said that the bombings were done by Jewish Direct Action to demand the release of Anatoly Shcharansky, one of the creators of the H-bomb, who is seeking to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

The Phalangists, like the Jews of Israel, suffer from the "Masada complex"—better dead than Arab. It is not surprising that the zionists and the Phalangists became natural allies, though, in his heart, every Phalangist, like every Klansman, is anti-Semitic. The Phalangists are staunchly anti-communist, and like the Klan, often present their cause as a crusade against communism. They are, of course, pro-American.

The fascist ideology of the Phalange, based in the supremacy of Christian Europeans, is like the ideology of the Klan, and their methods also resemble those of the Klan.

In almost every instance, atrocities were started by the Phalangists: kidnappings, mutilations, indiscriminate murder, wholesale massacre. The Phalangists initiated and perfected the idea of kidnapping and slaughtering civilians on the basis of their religion. It started with what has come to be known as "Black Saturday," December 6, 1975. More than 200 Moslems were collected at random by the Phalange and murdered in reprisal for the deaths of four militiamen. Then came the massacre at the poorest slum on the outskirts of Beirut, known as Karantina.

The terrorist character of these Christian extremists is proven by the fact that, within the areas under their control, practically no Moslems live—they have all been "cleared," usually by masked Phalangists in the middle of the night. The situation under anti-Phalangist control is the opposite. West Beirut is mostly Moslem, but 30% of the inhabitants are Christian, and no one has been harmed there because of his or her religion. In fact, many Phalangists and Phalange-sympathizers still have their businesses in West Beirut.

The forced retreat of the U.S. marines from Beirut was a great victory for the progressive Lebanese and Palestinian struggles.

The U.S. "peacekeeping" mission was in reality an attempt to force Phalangist rule on all of Lebanon. The truck bomb attack on marine headquarters was not the act of "fanatics" as the U.S. insists, but a bold military act requiring great courage and sacrifice, that saved thousands of lives. It forced the U.S. (and the French and Italians) out of Lebanon, and made space for the people to drive the Phalangists from power. This was a significant victory for the anti-imperialist struggle worldwide. Reagan's attempt to maintain the "Klan of Lebanon" in power met with humiliating defeat.

The struggle continues today. Lebanon is still divided and the Phalangists are not defeated. Israel holds all of southern Lebanon, but is meeting with increased resistance. U.S. intervention is more covert, and continues with military and financial aid to the zionists and Phalangists. Support for Lebanon and Palestine, particularly inside the U.S., needs to be built more than ever before.

## JDL Racist Leader Elected

3,000 protesters picketed the Israeli Knesset (parliament) as rightwing zionist Meir Kahane was sworn in on August 13. The U.S.-born Kahane is the founder of the fascist Jewish Defense League and the author of a Mein Kampf called *They Must Go* demanding as a final solution that all Arabs be expelled from "Israeli territory" (Palestine). Kahane, 52, was greeted by a crowd carrying placards that read "Fascism Will Not Pass," "Kahane Contradicts Judaism," and "Kahane Equals Racism." In his election campaign, Kahane promised to support the settler-terrorists of the Gush Emunim recently arrested for planting bombs in Arab neighborhoods and car-bombing of Palestinian mayors. After his election he led supporters on a march through the Arab market of Jerusalem chanting "Death to Arabs." Inside the hall Kahane was denounced by a Jewish communist delegate, who called out, "You Nazi, get out of here!"

# Yankee Klan,

from page 1

which designed the highly acclaimed school anti-Klan curriculum, debated over whether it would give publicity to the Klan by publishing the guide. Said Robbins Barstow of the CEA: "The conclusion we came to was that ignorance was a greater danger than publicity. It would play into the hands of the Klan and allow their position to spread."

The strength of the People's Anti-Klan Coalition kept away many of the racists. The PAKC included the People's Anti-War Mobilization, the Hartford Inner City Citizens for Justice, the Committee to Defend

attack, leftists are discredited and liberals stay away.

## Groton

The city officials in Groton staged the Klan rally in a public park, smack in the center of town. As a result close to 250 people came out. Ranging from mildly curious to strongly opposed, the overwhelming sentiment of the crowd was anti-Klan. A group of twenty Black teen-agers carrying mega-radios entered the Klan rally, turned on their radios full blast and began break-dancing. This upset the mock-dignity of the occasion and encouraged others to heckle and disrupt.

While this rally was less than a smashing success for the Klan, their ongoing activity indicates they are targeting Groton. Groton

and many white people supported the Black Panther Party and other revolutionary groups. The experiences of the civil rights, anti-war and Black power movements helped many white people to be receptive to revolutionary ideas and solutions, and willing to fight racism. But today the lack of a mass anti-racist movement among white people has left the KKK an open field in which to organize. There is no progressive alternative offered.

The Klan's job is to positively link racism at home and imperialist war. Their job is to help the police secure the "home front" from revolutionary threats here, in particular, from struggles of oppressed nations within U.S. borders. The Klan's targets are the potentially revolutionary Black, Puerto Rican and other Third World communities who have no stake in Amerikkka and imperialist war. This is why the KKK is being consciously built in Connecticut—not just as an ideological front, but as a military fascist force aimed at Black and Puerto Rican communities.

This is why the police are more interested in protecting than stopping the Klan.

The Klan has a multi-level strategy for Connecticut, of which public rallies are only the tip of the iceberg. At all their rallies Bill Wilkinson talked about the Klan's demand for segregated education, their work on behalf of "white rights" and against affirmative action and their commitment to "anti-terrorism" (he means the Black Liberation Movement in general, and the Black Liberation Army in particular).

Their program spells nothing but race war and fascism, because fascism is not just more cops, identity cards, phone taps; fascism means popular support for a police state, for the racist rallying cry of 'law and order,' and the growth of mass-based racist organization. This is what is being built by the war fever led by the imperialist state and echoed by the Klan.

Supporting Black people's right to armed self-defense against racist attacks will help

build a consciousness that supports a full strategy to free the Black Nation—including the growth of its liberation army.

To combat the Klan effectively at this stage we must build a militant movement that offers an anti-racist alternative, that actively organizes against imperialist war, against white supremacy, in full solidarity with Black Liberation.

## Danbury Klan Attack

A small group of Black and Puerto Rican men were attacked by a mob of as many as 30 racists on Woodside Avenue in Danbury, Connecticut, on the night of June 25, when they walked down the street past a "Klan party" at the home of Klan member Fred Wildman.

Rocks and bottles were hurled at them as they were passing the house, and a mob of whites attempted to block the street.

The Black and Puerto Rican men defended themselves and then moved away down the street. When the police arrived, called by neighbors, they attacked these men who went over to them to tell them what had happened. The police set attack dogs on the Black and Puerto Rican men, one was pushed to the ground and beaten on the head with billyclubs. Then the men were arrested and charged with breach of peace and interfering with a police officer.

Four Klansmen were also arrested under the same charges, as well as riot. They are: Fred Wildman, Kevin Moore, and Harold Reeve from Danbury, and Alan Groth, from Milford. Wildman and Reeve live together and fly a Confederate flag in front of their house.

The Black community has held meetings to discuss their concern over growing attacks by the Klan and police. None of the cases have come to trial yet.



People's Anti-Klan Coalition demonstration in New Britain.

New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and John Brown Anti-Klan Committee.

The Klan spoke to an almost empty stadium, except for the 500 cops standing at the ready. Of course, the massive police maneuvers also served to keep away many local anti-Klan people who were not part of the Coalition.

### What Klan?

The police, echoed by the media, try to minimize the significance and danger of the Klan. Through Klan Watch, a national watchdog group, the Connecticut NAACP has traced the Klan's emergence in Connecticut from small groups in the '70s to "remarkable growth" in the late 70s and early 80s, when 400 were known to be active. Yet one Connecticut paper recently wrote that the new United Northeast KKK was nothing to worry about because it has only 6 members. This self-delusion ignores the fact that the Klan's public presence is only the tip of the iceberg they choose to show.

While they try to minimize the Klan, police-led forces promote the view that people who oppose the Klan are ultra-left wing extremists and equally (if not more) dangerous. Since they always mobilize 35

is the home of General Dynamics' Electric Boat division, where Trident nuclear submarines are made.

In October, 1983, the Klan held its first demonstration in support of nuclear war in Groton. On May 19, 1984, at the launching of the Trident submarine "Alabama," they were there again to oppose anti-nuke protesters; to promote racism, violence and the U.S. war machine. They came again on August 4, 1984. Connecticut "Grand Dragon" James Farrands and his wife, Dianne Boutilier Farrands, John Dillon and several others, were allowed behind police lines where they leafleted all the people attending the invitation-only launching ceremony.

### Why Connecticut?

Many people want to know why a "yankee" state is now becoming a center of Klan organizing.

The US war machine is a day-to-day reality that dominates Connecticut's economic and political life. 70% of Connecticut's industrial workers are directly employed by the U.S. military or are involved in military and war related production. Connecticut's leading industries include Colt, Smith & Wesson, Sikorsky, Pratt & Whitney, United Technologies and Electric Boat, Norden Bombsights, etc.

Because of this, increased U.S. militarism has actually meant economic improvement in Connecticut, when most other parts of the Northeast are suffering economic decline. This atmosphere, especially in the absence of a militant anti-war movement, has a tremendously conservatizing effect on people's consciousness. This conservatism is promoted by government and industry. Electric Boat "invites" employees to the flag-waving, super-patriotic, war mongering launching ceremonies. Everybody eats fried chicken and apple pie while the death machines are launched.

In these conditions the Klan is attempting to make inroads by providing answers and program for white people's questions about everything from war, national liberation, economic and political crisis to education and women's and gay liberation. It makes sense that pro-war, racist, anti-communist and reactionary views would take shape in places where people's livelihoods and political consciousness are so influenced by the U.S. war machine.

Of course, the Klan is not primarily about war abroad. It is about war at home.

### War

Connecticut is typical of most of Amerikkka—lily-white suburbs surrounding Black and Puerto Rican city centers, in this case Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport. In the late 1960s, New Haven was a center for the Black liberation movement,



Klan members (l. to r.) Dianne Farrands, John Dillon, and James Farrands and an unidentified Klansmen leafletting those attending the Trident sub launching in Groton on May 19. Anti-nuclear demonstration, behind, is separated by police barricades.

## Community Action,

from page 9

their meager welfare checks. Many of the people on welfare are disabled, or single mothers with very young children.] We want to raise up the issue that Black people are due reparations for all the centuries of our unpaid labor that made this country rich.

We are also looking at the situation with the buses. Black people are abused physically and verbally on the buses, and the city is changing the bus system to serve the white suburbs and not the Black community, which is 75% of the population of metropolitan Detroit.

**What is your perspective on how the activities of the CATF build the overall New Afrikan Independence Movement?**

In everything we do we look at its potential to (1) deal with a real need that the Black community has; (2) strike at our major problem, which is this white supremacist government. Our goal is to move with people toward a people's war for national liberation. We don't pretend we can solve or even address the majority of problems that we face. What we do has educational, or-

ganizational and mobilizing value. We have had success in raising both the consciousness and self-confidence of people in their own abilities, and in the inadequacy of the system.

**What has been the response of the police and the powers that be to the efforts of the CATF?**

The gas company was upset but they did not call the police. When the security patrols start we expect there will be police reaction. You have to remember that there is a Black administration in Detroit, and while they are no better in dealing with the human needs of oppressed people, they need to maintain a facade. It would look bad if they attack Black groups that help the community. They might need to criminalize the CATF, make it look like a bunch of criminals in order to attack it. We will see what the future brings.

**Thank you. Is there anything our readers can do to support the efforts of the CATF?**

To help the CATF, people can send contributions to RNA CATF, P.O. Box 04252, Detroit, MI 48204.



Police "surveillance" photo displays of anti-Klan activists at entrance to Klan rally.

cops to protect every one Klansman, people begin to believe it. This kind of thinking led the liberal coalition in Stratford, Ct. which had initially welcomed all anti-Klan groups, to refuse to let JBAKC speak at its September, 1983, anti-Klan rally. The courts also do their part by granting permits to the Klan, issuing injunctions banning even parking within half a mile of an appearance by Bill Wilkinson and authorizing stop and frisk procedures for all who enter the Klan rally area.

These tactics serve the Klan's purposes perfectly—the Black community is under

# Police Terror in Battle Creek

The Black community in Battle Creek, Michigan, is under attack by armed racists. In this case, the racists are not wearing white robes but blue uniforms.

At 3:00 a.m. on the morning of April 10, 1984, Battle Creek police and Michigan SWAT teams broke into the home of a member of the Coalition to End Police Brutality and Racism and held all the occupants, including 15 children, at gunpoint. Police planted guns, ammunition and explosives in the house—then told the press they had uncovered a "terrorist" nest.

The pretext for the Gestapo-type raid was the unsolved shooting of a Black teenager. But the raid was part of a continuing onslaught of repression aimed at the Coalition, many members of which are conscious New Afrikan and revolutionary nationalists, and which has fought police violence in Battle Creek since 1979. These attacks are part of a campaign to discredit these revolutionaries as "criminals" and "terrorists."

Since the raid, 200 Black residents of the Battle Creek community, including children as young as six, have been subpoenaed to a Grand Jury "investigating" the Coalition. Sondra Clark's baby Nia is one of the first victims of judicial terrorism—Battle Creek style. Judge Kingsley would not allow Sondra Clark, who is in jail for refusing to collaborate with the Grand Jury, to

breast feed her daughter despite warnings from doctors that this would endanger the baby's health. Nia, seven months old, died as a result.

Many people are going to jail rather than collaborate with the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury resisters are following the example of the eleven people who went to jail rather than collaborate with the 1980-84 New York Grand Jury aimed at the New Afrikan movement after the "Brink's" arrests.

Coalition leader Larry Guy was arrested for "parole violations" after the raid; his son has also been arrested on an "unrelated" charge. A cross was burned on the lawn of a Coalition member—the second cross burning aimed at the Coalition in four years.

The Guy family has been a thorn in the side of the Battle Creek police. In September, 1980, Robert Guy, Larry Guy's brother, and co-founder of the Coalition, was assassinated under mysterious circumstances. Police claimed his car blew up because he was transporting explosives, but witnesses saw something thrown at the car. 200 people attended his funeral, including activists from other cities in Michigan.

In a 1981 interview in the newspaper, *Black Alleged News*, Larry Guy said, "History shows that whenever a Black man in this country stands up and demands respect for himself and others like him he is imme-

diately shunned by the white racist powers that be who wish to still keep control mentally, physically, spiritually of the Black people."



Nia Clark, killed by judge's orders.

The April 10 raid took place just days before a court hearing on a lawsuit brought by Larry Guy against Battle Creek police.

At the April 20 hearing a victory was won when the jury awarded damages for a vicious beating Larry Guy received in 1979 while being arrested on a false weapons charge. Up to 150 people were mobilized on several occasions to support him during his 1980 trial. Guy served 2½ years for his conviction in that case.

Recently, the Coalition has held protests and received media attention concerning three supposed "suicides" in the last 19

months in Battle Creek city jails. The Coalition has also exposed links between local police and Klan activity, including the 1980 cross-burning at a Coalition members' home. The Coalition brought a contingent of 30 people to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May, 1983, joining 150 others in confronting a Klan/Nazi rally. The Coalition banner read: "We are trained and ready. There are more of us than you think." After the rally leaflets were found on car windows which read "White People Unite! So that we can get rid of...the Negroid scourge that threatens our boys in blue in Battle Creek! They [police] need our support everywhere."

**Support the Coalition. We must serve notice on Michigan officials that people around the country are watching what's going on there. Please write or call:**

Conrad Sindt, District Attorney  
Toeller Building  
109 E. Michigan  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

and  
Battle Creek Police Chief Kohnke  
20 N. Division  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
(616) 966-3322

#### **Demand:**

**End harassment of the Coalition to  
End Police Brutality and Racism,  
Stop the Grand Jury attack,  
Drop the Subpoenas!**

As we go to press, the state is escalating its attacks on the Coalition. On Sept. 7, 5 Coalition members, Larry Guy, Sr., Dakar Guy, Sonae Clark, Crystal Hall, and Bernice Davis were indicted for "conspiracy to acquire gunpowder" and Larry Guy was indicted for "trying to make a bomb". Crystal Hall was hurt in the arrest, and is in the hospital. At midnight, the police conducted a six-hour raid of a Coalition members house, wrecking it. The children



## Editorial

The elections of Mayor Harold Washington in Chicago and Wilson Goode in Philadelphia coupled with the momentum developed around the Jesse Jackson for President campaign and Jackson's Rainbow Coalition has sparked attention towards electoral politics in the Black community and the progressive movement in North America as a whole. Is electoral politics the "road to Black Freedom" (as some suggest)? What is the significance of the Jackson campaign to the struggle for human rights and liberation of Black people in North America? Can Walter Mondale and the democratic party be trusted to champion the human rights of Black people and fight white supremacy and oppression worldwide?

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, noted New Afrikan scholar and Pan-Afrikanist, once stated: "The system that enslaved you, will not free you." The u.s.a. is an empire built and maintained on the enslavement, exploitation, and stolen lands of African, Native American, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Asian/Pacific and other oppressed nations and people. The New Afrikan (Black) nation in North America is subjugated by the u.s. imperialist/white supremacist system. The u.s. political system is designed to keep New Afrikan and other colonized and oppressed people unable to control our political, economic, and social/cultural destiny. The u.s. political system and its two major parties, Democrat and Republican, are controlled by the North American ruling elite. Even though there are differences between conservatives and "liberals" in both the Republican and Democratic Parties, all factions are in fundamental agreement on the maintenance of u.s. imperialism and the system which keeps the masses of Black people powerless, poor, and unable to defend themselves from the terror of racist violence.

Many argue that through the election of Black Democrats, radical reform and even revolution could be made *within* the u.s. political system, thus bringing about a non-violent, peaceful transition to the liberation

of Black people. This logic was advanced in the Reconstruction era, and produced a devastating setback to the Black nation. There were more Black elected officials during the Reconstruction/post Civil War era than any period in u.s. history. These Black Reconstruction politicians led and participated in the advancement of many reforms in the u.s. political system (public education, rights for women, land reform). When the northern finance capitalists no longer needed the ex-slaves to offset the ex-Confederates in the South, the northern capitalists and Confederates united and used legislation and coercive power (through the u.s. army and white supremacist paramilitary, terrorist organizations) to disenfranchise and subjugate the New Afrikan nation. Black politicians were virtually pulled out of local government buildings and state legislatures and lynched in the streets. The white terrorist and coercive arms of white supremacy are still in place to stop the rise of Black political power. If u.s. imperialism will deny radical transformation peacefully and through electoral means in Chile, as it did with the military coup and assassination of Salvador Allende, certainly it will not allow radical peaceful reform to take place within its borders. What concessions u.s. imperialism gave to Black people in the '60s were given to head off Black rebellion and the development of the New Afrikan national liberation movement.

Some Black politicians are sincere men and women who hope to bring about reform within the system which they believe will benefit our people. Other Black politicians are opportunists, who hope to mobilize the massive Black vote as a constituency to broker with imperialism for concessions to satisfy their (the Black bourgeoisie's) elitist aspirations. While we credit the Black electoral drive for building a sense of Black unity, we disagree with its basic direction since it *disarms* the Black masses by creating an illusion that the u.s. government will protect our interests. Rather than preparing and arming the New Afrikan nation ideologically and organizationally to fight in a protracted struggle against imperialism and white supremacy by any means necessary, Black hopes and faith are called upon

to support a system that represses New Afrikan activists and Freedom Fighters, and backs the Ku Klux Klan.

The Jackson campaign, mobilizing 85% of the Black vote (as a symbol of struggle and a form of protest against mainstream American politics) by the Black masses, was left in disarray after the Democratic Convention. The defeat of the Rainbow Coalition was designed to send a symbolic message to white America from Mondale and the Democrats that Jackson (i.e., the Blacks) will be kept in line. Even after Mondale offered no real commitment to support Black reformist demands, Jesse Jackson played a major role in putting out the fires of dissent and protest at the convention. Jackson, seeking acceptance from Democratic Party leaders, harshly criticized Black delegates who openly displayed anger at Black officials who opposed reforms supported by the majority of the Black delegates. Jackson also played a role in disrupting a proposed boycott by Latinos calling for opposition to the fascist Simpson/Mazzoli immigration bill and convincing Black female delegates not to raise protest over obvious acts of disrespect shown them by Democratic leaders. Just as Mondale was proving he could control Jackson, Jesse was proving he could control Black militants and other grassroots forces for the Democrats. This is all part of what Malcolm X called a "political con game." Black support is delivered to the so-called liberals to defeat the conservatives, despite the fact that whoever wins, business goes on as usual.

Some white "leftist" and so-called "Marxist-Leninist" organizations have criticized Black delegates and Black people for not enthusiastically supporting the Mondale/Ferraro ticket and the Democratic Party since the convention. In spite of the cold shoulder given Black people at the Democratic Convention they argue that unity is necessary to defeat Ronald Reagan. The so-called "revolutionaries" do not want revolution but only a piece of the American imperialist pie. Instead of encouraging Black militancy and resistance and exposing the contradictions in one of imperialism's political organs, they seek to unite with impe-

rialism. These "anti-racists" support a party that does not support even the most minimal reforms called for by Black democrats. These anti-imperialists laud a Party that says it is opposed to apartheid in South Africa but at the same time supports zionism in occupied Palestine (Israel).

These are the reasons why the **New Afrikan People's Organization** has drawn the conclusion that our Movement must develop an organizational base independent and outside of the controls of the u.s. imperialist state and its two parties. Our national liberation and self-determination can not be achieved by strengthening or aligning ourselves with the system that oppresses us, but by us fighting to eliminate the oppressive relationship we have with that imperialist system. For Black people, New Afrikans, self-determination can only come about through building a strong fighting movement for Land, Independence and sovereign socialist state power—a Republic of New Afrika free of u.s. imperialism and white supremacy.

Ultimately, only through the development of mass resistance and armed struggle, through people's war will the Black nation be free and white supremacy eliminated. Rather than using our talents and resources to strengthen the army of the imperialists, we call upon progressive and anti-racist forces to support local efforts and campaigns to stop white supremacist violence on the Black nation and support Black people's right to self-defense, support the development and maintenance of revolutionary New Afrikan-led institutions and mass programs (New Afrikan Scouts, Food co-ops, educational programs, and health programs), and continued support for New Afrikan Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners who are in America's jails. Only through the liberation of the New Afrikan and other oppressed nations can we finally be assured of the defeat of the system that produces madmen like Ronald Reagan and the Ku Klux Klan.

**Build A Resistance Movement  
Boycott the 1984 Presidential Election  
It's a Farce  
Land, Independence, and Socialism  
for the Black Nation**

# "We Won't Move!"

## Black Women Defend Their Home in California

Esther Heath and Julia Coburn live with Julia's three daughters in Tara Hills, California, a Bay Area suburb near Richmond (the town notorious for the racist "cow-boys" in the police department). Like other Black households in the area, they have been the target of vicious racist attacks. JBAKC has done work to support them and the right of all Black people to self-defense. In this July interview with DTTK!, Julia Coburn vividly describes the cowardly nature of racist terrorism, the ways in which the police support it . . . and how she and other Black families stand up against it.

### What's happened to you and your family?

It started with other families in the neighborhood, the Livingstons and the Handy's, at that time they said it was the KKK. I've been here about three years since that happened, and then our little problem started: the bottle throwing, the name-calling, saying they didn't want any "n---rs" walking down the street or in the neighborhood. Then the girls were walking down the street and this guy just punched them in the face. So that's where it really started; then I called the police.

### That was Monica who was punched in the face? Your eighteen-year-old?

Right, that was Monica on March 4th. The police took a report. They came to my job with pictures and we did identify the guy. Then a little after that, Esther and I were in the house looking at TV one night and we heard glass breaking and gunfire. These guys were breaking out the car windows and firing guns. When they came around the first time, they got away with it. The second time, Esther and I were outside waiting on them. That's when Esther was prepared to defend us with a gun. We called the police, and after about 45 minutes, we called again. It took them over an hour to get here, and it was all over by then. We identified the guys who did the breaking of the windows.

### Of your car?

Yes. And it was the same guys who punched Monica. Then they added a couple of people, and we identified them, too. At first

**"Esther and I were in the house looking at TV one night and we heard glass breaking and gunfire. These guys were breaking out the car windows and firing guns..."**

they said it was a family dispute, which it wasn't. I said it was racism. Sergeant Dasher said he could only call it a dispute. I said it was racism because they said they didn't want any Blacks or any "n---rs" in their neighborhood.

Esther and I decided to make a stand, because we had a choice: we could either move or stay. We decided to stay. The media had come out, and they made it seem like we were the ones who were causing the problems, because they said these two Black ladies decided to make a stand and decided to shoot to kill. They made it sound like we were out there yelling, "we're going to kill them the next time they pass our house." But it wasn't like that. We said if they were going to shoot at us, we were prepared to shoot back; we would shoot to kill if they were shooting to kill or hurt. Esther took a picture of her carbine, and the papers were saying, "don't you think think this is just urging them on by showing this?" I felt that if they saw that we're not going to run, then maybe they'd think twice about coming by. That was my point; it wasn't to say, "c'mon, I'm ready for you." We did fire back, but not at them. A warning, just like the police do.

Finally, the other day, some guys passed by and yelled, "N---r!" I just got off from work, just driving in, and I caught up with them and I told them I had done my homework real well. I said: I know where you live, your sisters, your brothers, your mother, what time your mother sets your granny out on the porch with her blanket. So for every damage you do to me, I'm going to do you the same; for every funeral



Esther Heath and Julia Coburn.

I go to, you're going to one too. I just want to get a look at each and every one of you, because I refuse to move, and I'm not going to be harassed or intimidated.

### What has been the response since then?

Well, since then, they have been pretty quiet when they've been passing by. Some just kind of cruise by; they still look. Then I do have a lot of white friends who come by and visit, so I know they're watching me, but not quite sure how to take me. But they still have been doing the harassing. Most of it I've been ignoring, unless it really gets bad, then I go out and confront them. I don't coward away; I go right out—"Now, what's your problem?" Because I'm a woman, they'll try to talk really bad, but I don't bat an eye. Like, you don't scare me; I'm ready for you.

### What about the police reaction?

They said that the guys were in hiding. I asked them, how could they be in hiding

when I've seen them every day? They said, they're under cover. I said, where does a sixteen-year-old hide? He's home every evening. He goes to Pinole Valley High; my daughters see him. I see him at the "Big T" store down on San Pablo in Tara Hills. The police are down there a lot; I know they see him because they know these guys; they've arrested them before. One of the guys, the one who punched Monica, beat up his mother the other week. She had him arrested. We did go down to the police department to see what was taking them so long. I found there was a complaint against me from the sixteen-year-old's family, saying that I had pulled a gun on him. The police officer said the reason they didn't do anything was because of this complaint. He said, maybe this was the reason he did what he did, breaking out the windows. But he came up with this complaint after the fact!

I was surprised to find out there was a complaint. I told him that when my daughter, Stacey, ran around the corner and said they were beating up Monica, she said "kid." Now if she had said some men were beating up my daughter, then I probably would have teared and ran in the house and got a gun. But I just jumped in the car. I didn't have time to come in here and get a gun and pull it on a sixteen-year-old. But they did press those false charges against me.

### So the charges you made are still sitting there?

Yes. They did send me a letter from Juvenile Court saying that they were going to take him to court. I don't know what's happened. I haven't heard anything.

### What about the press?

Channel 2 did a nice job. They gave me a chance to say what had happened and what I planned to do. They did keep asking me, was I afraid? Well, you do get nerved up. Who wants to be attacked by anybody, whether they're Black or white or whatever? So I was nerved up; but then Esther said she was not running. She didn't come from the side of the tracks where you run. She was prepared to defend herself. After that I said I was going to, in essence, arm my children or teach them to defend themselves, because I cannot be here to drive them to the store or around the corner. So I said, the next time someone attacks you, fight back.

### You described how slow the police have been to come by when you've been under attack. What about at other times?

Sometimes my daughters have guests and the buses stop running around 10:30. They leave to catch the last bus home, and five minutes after they leave, the police bring them back and say, "oh, were these youths just leaving your house?"—because there was a robbery in Richmond or El Sobrante. They did this five or six times, until finally I said: Listen, I know you might say that all Blacks look alike, but this is getting ridiculous. How can you get from El Sobrante or South Richmond or North Richmond or wherever it is, and the robbery just happened five minutes ago? So I think you're just harassing us. "Well, they fit the description," they say. Then I end up having to take the kids to a bus stop where the buses are running or BART or home, because now they've missed the last bus.

The other night, we had a graduation party, on June 7th, and there were kids standing in my driveway, not in the street, because we're really careful about that. The police made an immediate response. You know: "the neighbors are worried, you're congregating." They're not disturbing anybody, I said; so we're just congregating; there's too many of us at one time? "Oh, no, that's not what I'm saying, but could you keep the kids inside?" I said, I can keep them on my property, but it's too hot for all these kids to be in the house. And he said, "well, they could go out back." I said: they could go out front, as long as they are not making any noise. He said, "well, if you just keep it down, there really isn't any problem." Then he parked outside. I went back outside and I said, I don't want you to park out here; I don't need a patrol. There is no problem. I'll call you if there's a problem. How long would it take you to get here? That's been about it.

### You and your family have been under a tremendous amount of pressure. Let me ask one final question: do you all intend to move?

NO!

## Juventud Sandinista

Where did you get that direct gaze at the age when girls' eyes are supposed to dart to the ground with shy laughter?

Oh,

Three months at the front . . .

Your eyes screened the Honduran mountains

for Contra nests,

The skies for deadly Yanki butterflies,  
The nights for stars of mortar.

Your eyes firmly encouraged the strength

of the companero beside you,  
who rested, frozen with the fear  
that comes with war.

Your eyes crackled with fire  
as they cast on the lifeless child  
and scanned the mountains of  
Sandino's resistance  
to find the trail of the Yanki  
terrorists  
for justice.

I see now,

You have the gaze of Sandino's  
daughters,  
Now leveled calmly at me,  
in one half my age.

They urge resistance.

And I know the path of this woman-child  
lies also in the belly of the beast.

Barbara Zeller

Esteli, Nicaragua

June 22, 1984 after meeting  
with a young companero  
leader of the Juventud.



### Postscript:

On the night of July 23, neighbors called to warn Julia and Esther that a carload of men with guns was down the street, saying they were "going to f--- with" the women. Esther called the police to demand protection. The men pulled up at the Coburn-Heath household and began to fire their guns into the air. More armed racists appeared on the hillside overlooking the house. Julia and Esther protected themselves and their family, they stood their ground and fired their own weapon into the air, successfully frightening the racists away.

But the attack wasn't over. The police arrived and proceeded not to go after the perpetrators, but to harass Julia and Esther, seizing their gun. Police told them that under no circumstances did they have the "right" to fire their weapon—that even if the racists broke down the door, their "only option" was to call the police.

Julia and Esther are standing strong, maintaining their right to defend themselves by any means necessary from these attacks. JBAKC members and other anti-racist activists and friends helped maintain a "house watch" at their home for two days. Support is being built locally, and people across the country can help by writing to Contra Costa County Sheriff R. Rainey, 1130 Escobar, Martinez, California. ●